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TWO SOUTH AFRICAN CHEETAHS GET NEW HOME IN MP SANCTUARY

Two South African cheetahs shfited to Kuno National Park two years ago were released into Gandhi Sagar Sanctuary in MP on Sunday

FOUR MORE CHEETAHS IN M.P. SOON: CM

Prabhash and Pavak, the six-year-old male cheetahs, originally brought from South Africa's Waterberg Biosphere Reserve to Kuno in February 2023, arrived at Gandhi Sagar Sanctuary, abutting Neemuch and Mandsaur districts, after a road journey. Chief Minister Mohan Yadav said four more cheetahs from Botswana will arrive shortly

KUNO NAT'L PARK SHOWS THE WAY AHEAD

- Eight Namibian cheetahs — five females and three males — were released into Kuno National Park on September 17, 2022, marking the first-ever intercontinental translocation of these big cats
- Currently, Kuno National Park, a significant site for cheetah conservation in India, houses 24 cheetahs, including 14 cubs

250

KILOMETRES IS THE DISTANCE BETWEEN KUNO AND GANDHI SAGAR SANCTUARY

CHENNAI ▪ MADURAI ▪ VIJAYAWADA ▪ BENGALURU ▪ KOCHI ▪ HYDERABAD ▪ VISAKHAPATNAM ▪ COIMBATORE ▪ KOZHIKODE ▪ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM ▪ BELAGAVI ▪ BHUBANESWAR ▪ SHIVAMOGGA ▪ MANGALURU ▪ TIRUPATI ▪ TIRUCHY ▪ TIRUNELVELI ▪ SAMBALPUR ▪ HUBBALLI ▪ DHARMAPURI ▪ KOTTAYAM ▪ KANNUR ▪ VILLUPURAM ▪ KOLLAM ▪ TADEPALLIGUDEM ▪ NAGAPATTINAM ▪ THRISSUR ▪ KALABURAGI

Easter outreach by the BJP amid Kerala waqf row

Party says resolution after SC's order on Act

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ T'Puram

AMID the raging waqf land row in Kochi's Munambam and apprehensions whether the recent Waqf (Amendment) Act, 2025 would resolve their woes, top Kerala BJP leaders did an Easter Sunday outreach by visiting churches and meeting prominent Christian leaders across the state.

While BJP state president Rajeev Chandrasekhar called on Cardinal George Alencherry in Thiruvananthapuram, Union Minister Suresh Gopi met Thrissur Archbishop Andrews Thazhath and later Jacobite Syrian Orthodox Church head Baselios Joseph I in Kochi.

The Easter outreach that began a couple of years ago, assumes significance in the wake of criticism on Union minister Kiren Rijiju's statement last week that the 2025 Act might not directly address the Munambam land dispute. The party's renewed efforts appear aimed at mending fences and strengthening ties with the Christian community.

During his meeting with Alencherry, Chandrasekhar conveyed Easter greetings and belated birthday wishes to the cardinal. He expressed the hope that the Waqf Act would help resolve the Munambam issue, and backed Rijiju's remarks that the amended Act provides a legal pathway for resolution by enabling parties to approach the Supreme Court.

"His (Rijiju's) remarks were well-intentioned, and I believe the Munambam issue will be resolved once the Act is implemented following the SC ruling," Chandrasekhar said. He also pointed fingers at parties in Kerala for failing to address the issue in the past. "Let's see who actually resolves the Munambam issue," he said.

Cardinal Alencherry described the meeting with Chandrasekhar as informal. He noted that both the Union and state governments appear keen on resolving the Munambam row. "They say people will benefit once the practical aspects of the law are implemented."

As for Suresh Gopi, he attended special Easter prayers at churches in Thrissur and the Holy Mass at Ollur Mary Matha Church and Puthanpally Mary Matha Catholic Church. He also met Archbishop Andrews Thazhath at Bishop's House and Baselios Joseph I at his residence in Mulanthuruthy.

Kerala BJP chief Rajeev Chandrasekhar calls on Cardinal George Alencherry in Thiruvananthapuram on Sunday

STUCK IN MUCK

Vehicles stuck in debris after heavy rain triggered flash floods in Ramban district of Jammu and Kashmir on Sunday. At least three people were killed and more than 100 rescued. The incessant rain also led to landslides and mudslides | PTI P8

Vance's 4-day visit to strengthen ties

JAYANTH JACOB @ New Delhi

UNITED States Vice President James David Vance, accompanied by his wife Usha and their three children, will arrive in India on Monday for a four-day official visit aimed at strengthening bilateral relations.

The Vance family is scheduled to land at the Palam air base in Delhi at 10 am and will be accorded a grand welcome.

This will be Vance's first visit to India since assuming office, and comes at a crucial time as India and the US work toward finalising a comprehensive trade agreement, expected to be concluded by fall. The visit takes place against the backdrop of escalating trade tensions between the US and China, following President Donald Trump's imposition of tariffs as high as 145% on Chinese imports. India, too, was recently affected by US tariffs of 27%, though a 90-day pause is now in effect.

Usha Vance, whose parents are originally from Andhra Pradesh, and the couple's children — Ewan, Vivek, and Mirabel — will accompany him throughout the trip.

The vice president's delegation includes senior officials from the Pentagon and the US State Department.

J D Vance

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is scheduled to host Vance for talks at 6.30 pm on Monday, followed by a formal dinner. The discussions are expected to centre on trade negotiations and broader strategic cooperation between the two countries.

During their stay in Delhi, the Vance family is expected to visit the Swaminarayan Akshardham temple and a local shopping complex known for traditional Indian handicrafts.

The delegation will travel to Jaipur to tour historical sites, including the UNESCO-listed Amer Fort on April 22. Vice President Vance is also scheduled to address a gathering at the Rajasthan International Centre in the afternoon.

The next day, the Vance family will visit the Taj Mahal in Agra and explore Shilpgram, an open-air marketplace for Indian handicrafts. They will conclude their visit and depart for the US from Jaipur on the evening of April 24.

Ex-DG&IGP Om Prakash found murdered at home, wife taken for questioning

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

FORMER Karnataka Director General and Inspector General of Police (DG&IGP) **Om Prakash** was found dead under mysterious circumstances at his residence here on Sunday evening. His wife Pallavi, who is the prime suspect, has been taken in for questioning.

The 68-year-old, 1981-batch IPS officer retired from service in 2017 and was staying with Pallavi, his son and daughter at HSR Layout in Bengaluru.

The residence of former DG&IGP Om Prakash in HSR Layout on Sunday

"A property dispute within the family is suspected to be the reason behind the murder. The retired officer had told his close associates that his life was under threat. There was a marital dispute too," said a police officer investigating the case. All angles are being looked into, he said. "Around 4.30 on Sunday evening, Pallavi called one of her friends — the wife of another ex-IPS officer — saying she killed a monster. She later dialled 112 and informed the police control room about the incident. We alerted our team to visit the retired officer's house on 14th Cross, HSR Layout" said a police officer attached to the HSR Layout police station.

The HSR Layout police filed an FIR based on the complaint filed by Om Prakash's son.

"A police team along with a Scene of Crime Officer visited the house. Prakash was found dead on the ground floor of the three-storeyed house, lying in a pool of blood with multiple stab injuries," police said. P3

TARIFF TRACKER

Harsh tariff will trigger major slowdown in the US economy this year and next, says economists

Hundreds of protest rallies held across the US against Trump's deportations and mindless tariffs

A new Boeing 737 MAX meant for China's Xiamen Airlines returned to the US due to tit-for-tat tariffs. More planes are at Boeing's Zhoushan center for final work and delivery, Reuters reported

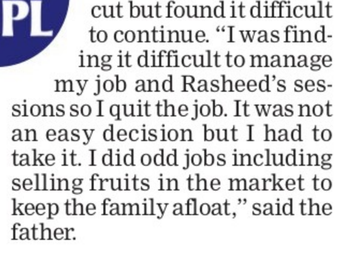
Gangavathi court orders seizure of DC's car over delay in paying compensation

RAGHOTTAM KOPPAR @ Koppal

A court at Gangavathi in Koppal district ordered that the Koppal deputy commissioner's official car be seized over compensation not being paid in a land acquisition case. The court staff and lawyers, who had gone to seize the car, had to return empty handed as DC Nalin Atul refused to give the keys of his vehicle.

The court's order came in a case of Gangavathi Municipal Corporation officials constructing a road on private land without informing the landowners, Kalmath and Virupakshappa.

After the two approached the Gangavathi Senior Court, Judge Ramesh S Ganiger ordered the seizure of the car. Advocates Sanjay B Chanal, Ramanna Sodra and Umesh D went to the DC's office recently to seize the car. When the DC refused to give the keys, the lawyers tried to still take away the vehicle. But as the car could not be moved, they went away.



Koppal deputy commissioner's car

The issue started with the Gangavathi Municipal Council constructing the road on private land. The council did not inform the owners, nor announced a compensation for them. That was when they approached the court.

The court that had been hearing the case since 2017 ordered on August 1, 2023 that Kalmath and Virupakshappa should be paid Rs 7,94,204 as compensation and it should come from the deputy commissioner. As the amount was not paid by the DC's office, the land losers again approached the court for an execution order. After conducting the hearing, the court ordered that movable assets of the Koppal DC office be seized.

EXPRESS READ

Kohli, Padikkal shine as RCB avenge defeat, crush PBKS by 7 wickets

MULLANPUR: Guided by Virat Kohli and Devdutt Padikkal, Royal Challengers Bengaluru exacted a sweet revenge on Punjab Kings keeping their all-away-win record intact with a seven-wicket victory in the IPL match here on Sunday. Chasing 158, Kohli (73 no off 54 balls) and Padikkal (61 off 35 balls) shared a 103-run partnership. Krunal Pandya (2/25) and Suyash Sharma (2/26) shone with the ball for RCB P11

Kharge slams JD(U)- BJP alliance, says Nitish switches sides for *kursi*

PATNA: Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Sunday slammed the alliance between the ruling JD(U) and the BJP in Bihar as "opportunistic" and alleged that Chief Minister Nitish Kumar switches sides only for the sake of *kursi* (power). Kharge alleged that the National Democratic Alliance has no commitment to the development of Bihar. "They have entered into an alliance just to remain in power. They have nothing to do with Bihar's development," he said P8

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GAME-CHANGER-II

Rasheed's story — Courage, grit and papa's sacrifices

FIROZ MIRZA @ Mumbai

SHAIK Balisha Vali speaks only Telugu. It took him more than five hours to find a translator to speak to this daily but the moment he started talking, he opened his heart out on what it took to make his son, Rasheed, a cricketer.

From working in a recovery team for a bank in Hyderabad to relocating the entire family to Guntur, Andhra Pradesh to selling fruits, he did it all for the sake of his son. More importantly for him, his childhood friends chipped in to extend financial support to ensure Rasheed's dreams became his reality.

"He was selected for a cricket academy in Hyderabad when he was eight. Two years later, he was picked up in the U-14 Andhra team. Then, I decided to shift to Guntur," Balisha told this daily.

Initially he took a pay cut but found it difficult to continue. "I was finding it difficult to manage my job and Rasheed's sessions so I quit the job. It was not an easy decision but I had to take it. I did odd jobs including selling fruits in the market to keep the family afloat," said the father.

After Andhra Cricket Association's Mangalagiri Cricket Academy adopting Rasheed, the journey became better for the Shaik household.

Post that, he was appointed as the vice-captain of the India team for the U19 World Cup in 2022. Next year, he made his debut for the senior Andhra side in all formats and was picked up by the Chennai Super Kings. After warming the bench for two years, Rasheed made his debut in the yellow jersey against Lucknow Super Giants a few days back and opened the innings again versus Mumbai at the Wankhede on Sunday after doing so against Lucknow.

Shaik Rasheed's father sacrificed a lot to ensure his son dreams became a reality | AFP

ALMANAC TODAY

Monday: 21.04.2025 **Year:** Vishwavasu **Ayana:** Uttarayana
Ritu: Vasantha **Masa:** Chaitra **Paksha:** Krishna **Tithi:** Ashtami 1.35 pm
Nakshatra: Utharashada 7.53 am **Moon in Kumbha Rashi** **Rahukaala:** 07:30 am to 09:00 am
Gulikakala: 01:30 pm to 03:00 pm **Yamaganda:** 10:30 am to 12:00 pm

WEATHER

MIN 23°C | MAX 35°C
FORECAST Overcast

Sunrise 06.03 am
Sunset 06.33 pm
Moonrise 12.52 am
Moonset 12.28 pm

MONSOON WORK CUT OUT: BALL IN BBMP COURT AS SURVEY IDENTIFIES 416 SWD ENCROACHMENTS

Activist: Civic body must act swiftly and demolish the illegal structures to address flooding

MOHAMMED YACOOB @Bengaluru

IN the wake of flooding in four BBMP zones due to heavy rain three years ago, the Bengaluru district administration had taken up a survey that found 416 encroachments on stormwater drains. The administration submitted the survey report to the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) recently for action against the encroachments. There were 1,023 complaints of SWD encroachments. The district administration confirmed 416 encroachments and is likely to give its orders for the 607 pending cases soon.

"In 416 confirmed cases, it is up to the BBMP to serve notice, take police help and evict the buildings on SWDs. Hearing is going on in 607 cases and after investigation, some more will be added to the list and sent to the BBMP for further action," said a senior revenue official.

Citizen activists, who have kept pressure on the BBMP to act against encroachments on SWDs, wetlands and lakes, have welcomed the identification of the 416 encroachments, but also raised concern on the effective implementation of rules.

"I have witnessed firsthand how illegal constructions over drains have worsened flooding and created public health crises during monsoons. In areas like Varthur and Bellandur, the situation is alarming. Major SWDs are either blocked, shrunk or diverted due to unauthorised buildings—many of which were constructed with little regard for environmental norms. The result is stagnant water, overflowing drains and contaminated lakes. A prime example is Bellandur lake which is plagued with frothing and fire outbreaks, while Varthur lake still receives unchecked sewage due to broken infrastructure and encroachments," said Jagadish Reddy, vice-president, Varthur Nagarikara Hita Rakshana Vedike.

He also said the BBMP must act swiftly and transparently, and eviction notices must be followed with on-ground demolition of illegal structures.

Sandeep Anirudhan, founder, Coalition for Water Security, and a resident of Mahadevapura, said the sheer mismanagement by the government is the primary cause for the destruction and encroachment of water bodies in Bengaluru, which further leads to flooding and drought. "Multiple agencies tasked with the ownership and management ensure that nobody does anything. The forest and revenue departments, Karnataka Tank Conservation and Development Authority (KTCDA), BBMP's SWD and lake departments are there, but we do not see any positive result. Between all of these agencies, none are really protecting any of them," he said.

He also expressed concern about the lack of data, saying revenue maps from the 1870s show very clear details of rajakaluves (SWDs) and lakes, with scale and contour, which present-day maps do not show. Many of these water bodies, while still functional, have been removed from revenue maps due to vested interests. Rajakaluves, which were between 10 and 50 metres, are now only surviving as 1- or 2-meter drains, and even those are encroached.

Hoardings, seen here on a skywalk, have become safety concern | SHASHIDHAR BYRAPPA

Unsafe hoardings, flexes put safety issues in spotlight

RAKSHITH GOWDA @Bengaluru

THE menace of illegal advertisement hoardings, banners, flexes and billboards continues to raise serious safety concerns among residents and commuters in the city. The issue came to the spotlight again after a large hoarding collapsed on Sarjapur Road and an unauthorised flex fell on the road in Nagarbhavi, injuring four commuters on Saturday.

Meanwhile, over 40 flexes wishing birthday to Social Welfare Minister HC Mahadevappa came up on Kumara Krupa Road on Sunday.

Flexes, cutouts and banners continue to appear frequently in many parts of the city during festivals, political events, private celebrations and other occasions.

Despite a directive by Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar, who is also Bengaluru development minister, to take strict action against those putting up such illegal flexes and banners, the BBMP has not acted.

Urban expert Kathyayini Chamaraj said flexes and hoardings cause visual pollution, are a threat to pedestrian and commuter safety, and disrupt traffic. "Large hoardings and flexes, often placed at prime locations like flyovers, bridges and foot-over-bridges to grab attention can lead to accidents and cause traffic congestion in the city," she said. Many illegal hoardings lack structural stability certificates and are erected using poor-quality materials, making them vulnerable to collapse during heavy winds, she added.

On BBMP action, she said, "I wonder why these flexes continue to remain. You hardly see anyone removing them immediately. Officials are expected to verify licence numbers for commercial advertisements, but hoarding owners don't seem to care."

She asked how hoardings are allowed to be installed on top of buildings and houses and demanded a complete ban. Political figures are often behind putting up flexes and banners for their own benefit, but later claim they were put up by their fans, she pointed out.

BBMP officials were unavailable for comment.

Admissions: Schools have to inform fee, quota details

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

THE Department of School Education has issued a circular outlining the procedures to be followed for student admissions in all private aided and unaided schools in the state for the academic year 2025-26.

The circular mandates that schools must issue clear admission notifications, follow reservation policies and display fee structures transparently. As per the circular, parents must be informed and empowered, and complaint redressal systems must be in place across districts. Authorities at all levels have been directed to monitor admissions closely and take action against non-compliance.

All private aided and unaided schools are required to issue a notification regarding the admission process. This must include the class-wise seat availability, reservation details, curriculum, medium of instruction and fee structure. Heads of institutions must display the admission schedule and other relevant details prominently on the school notice board.

Schools must clearly publish the officially approved fee amounts on their notice boards, websites, SATS portal and in printed prospectuses and collection of any fee beyond this declared amount is strictly prohibited. The circular also highlighted that the field education officers must promptly review and resolve complaints from parents and the public. "Serious cases are to be escalated to the zilla panchayat chief executive officer. Each district deputy director's office is required to set up a helpline with a designated nodal officer and staff to manage complaints," the circular read.

For CBSE-affiliated schools, the admission process must not discriminate on any basis, and reservations, if any, must align with the state government's applicable rules. The RTE Act provisions must be strictly followed, including the responsibility of the school to provide free and compulsory education to eligible children, the circular noted, warning ICSE-affiliated schools that failure to comply with state and central laws, including guidelines and court orders regarding school administration, could lead to withdrawal of affiliation.

EXPRESS READ

Will study Jayachandra report on BMIC, says Dr G

Bengaluru: Home Minister Dr G Parameshwara on Sunday said he is heading a cabinet sub-committee Bengaluru-Mysuru Infrastructure Corridor (BMIC) project, which has not been resolved for the past many years, that will look for ways to push the project forward. He told reporters that the government has given land to the Nandi Infrastructure Corridor Enterprises (NICE) and more than 300 cases are before the court. "The CM has appointed me as chairman of the sub-committee and Law Minister H K Patil and senior ministers are members. We will also study the report given earlier by the cabinet sub-committee headed by former minister T B Jayachandra and give our report," he said. **ENS**

SAVE OUR CONSTITUTION
"SECULARISM IS STRENGTH" "UNITY IS POWER" PROTECT THE WAQF LEGACY!
"NO BILL CAN SILENCE JUSTICE" DEFEND ARTICLE 14!
#Reject Anti Waqf Amendment Act
"Ambedkar's Vision Lives On"
WE, THE PEOPLE OF INDIA

MILLION VOICES

People from the Muslim community and volunteers protest against the Waqf (Amendment) Act, alleging that it is unconstitutional, at Freedom Park on Sunday | SHASHIDHAR BYRAPPA

Wolverhampton-BCU centre launch on April 22

Bengaluru: The UK's University of Wolverhampton has announced plans to collaborate with Bengaluru City University to launch the Wolverhampton–Bengaluru Research and Innovation Centre at the Jnana Jyothi campus on April 22. "As the centre's first initiative, a symposium on 'The Future of Healthcare' and 'Green Research' will be conducted aiming to foster dialogue in emerging areas of innovation and sustainability," said a press release. The centre will be officially inaugurated by Higher Education Minister Dr M C Sudhakar and Medical Education Minister Dr Sharanprakash R Patil and others. **ENS**

TOO HOT FOR THE POCKET

Pepper to touch ₹1k a kg, cultivators say 40% dip in produce

RISHITA KHANNA @Bengaluru

PEPPER, which has already seen a 40% price surge over the past two years, is now expected to touch Rs 900–1,100 per kg owing to a steady decline in production across major growing regions. Pepper prices that hovered around Rs 400-450 per kg two years ago have now climbed up to Rs 700. Cultivators attribute this to erratic rainfall patterns, prolonged dry spells, and a rise in pest and disease pressure that have all disrupted the fragile growing environment the crop depends on.

Planters from the Karnataka Spice Association and Chikkamagaluru Planters Association said that reduced harvests in countries like Vietnam and Brazil have triggered a global supply crunch, adding upward pressure on prices.

Chandrasekhar Reddy from Karnataka Spice Association said, "We have seen a production decline of up to 40% this season as last year, early summer droughts delayed flowering, and the sudden burst of rain in July affected berry setting which disrupted the crop cycle and affected overall volume."

Pepper grows as a climber on support trees and requires a specific microclimate — moist air, moderate shade, and soil that drains well. While the Western Ghats usually offer such conditions, recent weather fluctuations in places like Kodagu and Chikkamagaluru — which contributes to major pepper production from Karnataka — have made it harder to maintain stable growing environments, cultivators group said, adding that since last year, there has been an increase in fungal diseases like Phytophthora foot rot and anthracnose, which have worsened due to changing moisture levels in the soil.

"Once a vine is infected, especially with root rot, it's often a total loss. Replanting takes years before it becomes productive. Combined with weather instability, this has caused a steep fall in yields," Reddy added.

Jagdeesha MK from Chikkamagaluru Planters Association said that no fresh arrivals are expected for at least next two months and that they are re-evaluating crop allocations as they struggle with lower productivity. This supply crunch will drive the market in the coming months, he said.

Daily Starscope

PETER VIDAL

21ST April : Astrology and literature is my theme for the week. Louis MacNeice, a famous English poet of the thirties and forties, actually wrote a text book on astrology, and how to work out and interpret horoscopes. In popular entertainment, astrology surfaced in the great 1950 movie, Sunset Boulevard, in which the Hollywood star, Gloria Swanson, repeatedly checks her horoscope.

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr. 20)
An upbeat Moon, full of commonsense, is just what you need to get off to a good start. Given that there are few planetary pressures this week, you can do yourself a favour and drop any aspects of your life which have outlived their usefulness. Go on - you know you can do it!

TAURUS (Apr. 21 - May 21)
Your first reaction to a new proposition will probably be to accept it without question, especially if it relates to home or family matters. Only later will doubts begin to creep in. Knowing this, you may wish to take more time in the first place!

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)
Today's dominant planetary alignment is nicely helpful, and will enable you to bring out your legendary qualities - such as your ability to talk at great length about almost anything! But will anyone else understand you? Well, perhaps it really doesn't matter!

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)
The first thing to be considered now is your role in an emotional relationship or joint undertaking. The heart of the matter could be financial, including the question of who pays for what. That might be an issue you can't solve now - so put it off till tomorrow!

LEO (July 24 - Aug. 23)
A relative or colleague may now believe that you can be brow-beaten or otherwise forced to accept second-best. If only they knew that the Moon was on your side, they'd see how wrong they are! The stars' first advice is to stand your ground, and only to compromise when you know the result is going to be fair.

VIRGO (Aug. 24 - Sept. 23)
It's because you put on a brave face and conceal your true feelings that others often misunderstand your real intentions. Now, before you can talk about your emotions, you need properly to understand your motives. If you then say what you mean, other people might actually sit up and pay attention.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 - Oct. 23)
Loved ones may be argumentative, but there doesn't seem to be anything wrong which can't be smoothed over with a little kindness and compassion. Friends can be called in to help if extra assistance is required. See to it that you contact the right people at the appropriate time, though.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22)
You may be wondering how long it will be before underlying tensions can finally be satisfactorily resolved. The answer is not for some time yet, so continue to take whatever evasive action you feel is necessary. Your next step might actually be to look at the financial implications.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 - Dec. 22)
Mercury, ruler of deep thought and wisdom, is now approaching a supportive relationship with Jupiter, planet of inspiration. The psychological impact finds your intellectual processes becoming sharper, to the point where your judgment will be beyond criticism.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 23 - Jan. 20)
No one can prevent you continuing a feud for as long as Mars arouses your irritation - or even anger. But you can decide for yourself whether it is really worthwhile letting the distant past colour your present actions - or allowing chance events to disturb your emotional equilibrium.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 - Feb. 19)
Workwise you have been through a period of change, and it's now time to make the necessary personal adjustments. If you have in any way neglected your social life or ignored old friends, now is the moment to correct the balance. Get in touch!

PISCES (Feb. 20 - Mar 20)
All ambitious and professional individuals are now hitting a new phase, one full of fresh ideas. Even if your life is determinedly leisured you will soon be struck by the realisation that you have neglected your talents. It might even be a good time to think about learning a new skill.

Solutions to Saturday's puzzle

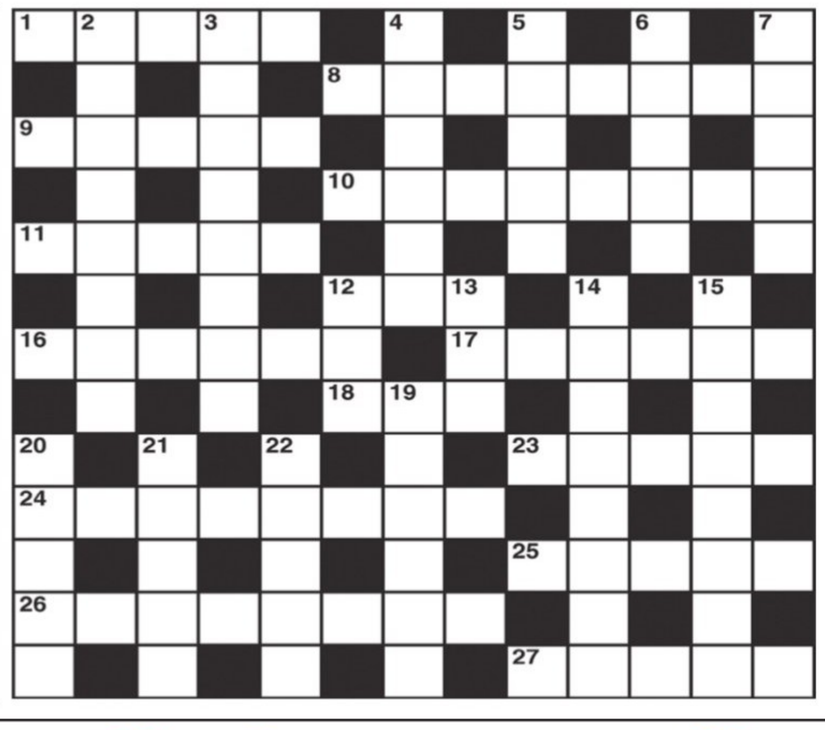
			8				7	4
				2		5		
	4			1	9		3	6
								5
8		9		7		4		1
2								
6	7		4	5			8	
		1		6				
5	9				7			

9	4	6	8	5	1	2	7	3
7	3	1	6	2	4	9	5	8
2	8	5	3	9	7	1	6	4
4	6	9	2	7	5	8	3	1
1	7	3	9	8	6	4	2	5
5	2	8	4	1	3	6	9	7
6	9	7	5	4	8	3	1	2
8	1	2	7	3	9	5	4	6
3	5	4	1	6	2	7	8	9

SUDOKU HARD

TEST YOUR NUMBER CRUNCHING SKILL WITH OUR UNIQUE PUZZLE

Fill in the grid with digits in such a manner that every row, every column and every 3X3 box accommodates the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.



CROSS WORD

ACROSS

1 They describe one's times at school (5)
8 A worker interrupted by ecstatic non-worker (8)
9 Untrue statement about essential part of diet (5)
10 One in jam here sadly is a doleful character (8)
11 There's a great deal to succeeding in this game (5)
12 A ship as a means of transport (3)
16 Display well started (3,3)
17 They hold an alternative supposition (6)
18 How to judge an effort (3)
23 Move south along shore to get to bay perhaps (5)
24 Abuse found in rapid dispensing of medicine (8)
25 Actor's instruction to play 'As You Like It'? (2-3)
26 Something to read in the powder room (8)
27 Those taken for trips? (5)

DOWN

2 Growth of conciliation upset workers - a bad sign (4,4)
3 Battle remembered in the long run (8)
4 Loosened bosses' grip (6)
5 Fifty always turn up for a feast (5)
6 Reportedly remained sober (5)
7 I held out for capital (5)
12 Twelve inches short behind (3)
13 A pen carried by most youngsters (3)
14 Instrument produced by one making an entry (8)
15 Understanding it's mean (8)
19 Centre to be rebuilt in modern style (6)
20 Wild emus start to paddle in the foam (5)
21 A lighter push (5)
22 Stagger out of a labyrinth (5)

SATURDAY'S SOLUTIONS

Across: 1 Aftertaste, 6 Shop, 10 Mamba, 11 Parachute, 12 Fatheads, 13 Oasis, 15 Coyotes, 17 Platoon, 19 Inroads, 21 Creator, 22 Endue, 24 Carolina, 27 Topiarist, 28 Ivory, 29 List, 30 Aggregates.

Down: 1 Arms, 2 Tom Sawyer, 3 Reach, 4 Appeals, 5 Turns up, 7 Hours, 8 Pleasantry, 9 Accolade, 14 Accidental, 16 Trade gap, 18 Out and out, 20 Sacking, 21 Curator, 23 Dupes, 25 Lying, 26 Dyes.

JUMBLE

UNSCRAMBLE THESE JUMBLES, ONE LETTER TO EACH SQUARE, TO FORM FOUR ORDINARY WORDS.

BY DAVID L. HOYT AND JEFF KNUREK

LUCAK

RLOLT

CRWAOD

TKHESC

And the train conductor says Take a break, Driver B Driver R, take a break . . .
The guitar sounds perfect!
He's killing it!
I love this song!
FOR THE AUDIENCE, SEVERAL OF THE SONGS PERFORMED BY THE COVER BAND ---
Get the free JUST JUMBLE app • Follow us on Twitter @PlayJumble

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers tomorrow)

Saturday's Jumbles: EMCEE SOUPY THOUGH INVERT
Answer: The aliens maternity ward was located on the — MOTHER SHIP

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Three members of a family died when a truck overturned onto them while they were riding a two-wheeler near Lingasettypura Gate under Chikkaballapur Rural police limits on Saturday night. The deceased are Venkatesh, 35, and his daughter Greeshma. His wife Roopa, who sustained severe injuries, was rushed to a hospital in Bengaluru for higher treatment. However, she succumbed to her injuries on Sunday morning

MURDER ATTEMPT

Ricky Rai gives statement against father's 2nd wife, aides

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

RICKY Rai, son of late underworld don Muthappa Rai, recorded his statement with the Bidadi police and alleged that his father's second wife, Anuradha and three others may have conspired in the attack on him.

He was shot at by an unidentified assailant while he was travelling in a car with his driver, Basavaraju, and gunman Rajpal, from his Bidadi farmhouse to Bengaluru around 12.50 am on Saturday.

According to sources, Rai recorded his statement with DySP Srinivas on Sunday and alleged that Anuradha and three others conspired in the murder over a property dispute. He said, due to court matters, he has visited the city from Russia. A team of police officers inspected the location where the shooting took place and has been interrogating his close associates. Police have filed a case against Anuradha, former aides Rakesh Malli, Nitesh Anathan and their associates for attempted murder and Arms Act based on a complaint by Basavaraju. Meanwhile, four special teams have been formed to probe the matter and trace the shooter.

In 3 months, SHRC records 87 plaints of unlawful detention

RAKSHITH GOWDA @Bengaluru

DESPITE strict rules in place against detention, State Human Rights Commission (SHRC) received 87 complaints of 'unlawful detention' in just three months.

Among the total 9,556 cases registered by SHRC, this year, over 78 per cent were against the police department and its excesses. According to data from the SHRC, 5,341 new cases and 271 suo motu cases were registered in 2025. The total includes 3,944 pending cases from 2024. Of the total, 6,664 cases were disposed of by March 2025, while 2,892 remain pending.

The highest number of complaints were received from Bengaluru city and Bengaluru Rural district. In 2024 alone, SHRC registered 153 cases related to unlawful detention.

Speaking to *TNIE*, T Sham Bhatt, the Acting Chairperson of the Commission, said the Commission has been visiting 21 districts across the state to address the problems, so complainants no longer need to travel to Bengaluru. This year, the Commission has recommended that the government should compensate victims with over Rs 2.5 crore and take disciplinary action against those found guilty.

Bhatt further said officials are inspecting hostels, bus stops, district prisons, and government hospitals to crack down on facilities.

The officials are also working to raise awareness among the public to report any human rights violations.

Bengaluru-based activist and Advocate Vinay Srinivasa said migrant workers are among the most common victims of unlawful detention. Although there are strict rules in place against such detention, they are often not followed.

Most people are unaware of their rights and are afraid to file complaints against the police. Moreover, they often do not know whom to approach or how to file a case, he said. He further pointed out that senior police officers also need to exercise greater supervision over lower-ranking personnel, as most of the victims tend to be from poor or middle-class backgrounds and are often targeted for money.

A senior city police officer said, "If any innocent person has been detained and money was demanded, the responsible officer must be punished. However, in some cases, the police cannot strictly go by the book to uncover the truth and understand the offence," he added.

EASTER TREAT

Children collect Easter egg-shaped chocolates following the Sunday Easter prayers at St Andrew's Church in Bengaluru | ALLEN EGENUSE J

19-year-old kills father for being strict, mother arrested

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

A 47-year-old man was allegedly killed by his wife and son, as he insisted that they maintain strict discipline.

The Viveknagar police arrested the victim Bolu Arab's son, Sameer, 19, a first-year B.Com student at a private college, and his wife, Tabassum, 38, a homemaker.

The crime occurred early Sunday, behind Viveknagar bus stand. Bolu Arab was a former Army personnel and retired in 2017.

The police said that Sameer called Namma 112 emergency service around 2.30 am, claiming that five unidentified miscreants had attacked his father at their residence.

When the police rushed to the spot, they found Arab dead. As there were no signs of forced entry, they suspicted Sameer and Tabassum. During interrogation, Sameer confessed to giving Arab sleeping pills and later strangling him. The police further said the motive behind the murder was alleged mental harassment by Arab. He was strict and insisted that his family members too maintain a disciplined life. Sameer said he could no longer tolerate his father's rigid behaviour and control.

Van collides with parked flight at KIA

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

A van collided with the undercarriage of a parked IndiGo aircraft at the Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) on April 18, reportedly after the driver fell asleep while operating the vehicle on the airside.

The incident occurred at 12.15 pm on Sunday, near parking bay 71 Alpha. However, no injuries were reported.

"On April 18, at around 12.15 pm, a vehicle operated by a third-party ground handling agency made contact with the undercarriage of a non-operational Aircraft On-Ground at Kempegowda International Airport, Bengaluru. No injuries were reported. All necessary protocols have been promptly followed in coordination with relevant stakeholders. The safety and security of our passengers, airline partners, and airport personnel remain our highest priority," an official statement for Bangalore International Airport Limited (BIAL) said.

The incident occurred at 12.15 pm on Sunday, near parking bay 71 Alpha

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has also been informed, and a probe into the incident is under way.

IndiGo Airlines said, "We are aware of the ground incident at Bengaluru airport involving a parked IndiGo aircraft and a third-party ground vehicle. The investigations are ongoing, and all necessary action shall be initiated as required."

'OM PRAKASH'S WIFE, DAUGHTER WERE PRESENT IN THE HOUSE'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"OM Prakash's wife Pallavi and his daughter were present in the house at the time of the incident," the police officer said. "Pallavi was taken in for questioning as she is the prime suspect. There were no signs of forced entry into the house," he added. Prakash's body was sent to St John's Hospital for postmortem.

DG&IGP Alok Mohan, Police Commissioner B Dayananda and other top officers visited the spot. Additional Commissioner of Police Vikas Kumar Vikash said, "Based on the information received around 4.30 pm, Hoysala personnel arrived at the spot and found that a murder had taken place."

It appeared that a weapon was used to inflict physical injuries and further details will be known after the postmortem report, he said. There were three people in the house, including Prakash, his wife and daughter, at the time of the crime, he said. "One of them provided information about the murder. A weapon was seized from the house. The building has been secured. A complaint has been registered based on the statement given by Prakash's son, and an FIR filed," Kumar added.

Om Prakash, originally from Champaran district in Bihar, was a 1981-batch IPS officer. He served as DG&IGP of Karnataka from 2015 until his retirement in 2017.

'I killed the monster,' wife told friend

A police officer investigating the murder said Om Prakash's wife Pallavi called the wife of another former IPS officer and told, "I killed the monster", giving strong leads that she might have committed the murder. A police officer who worked with Prakash told reporters that the ex-DG&IGP had told him that he faced a threat to his life from his family members over a property dispute.

"He had also told me that Pallavi suffered from mental health issues and he was upset about it. He told me that he was getting Pallavi treated at a health centre in Jigani in the city," the officer said.

"He also told me that Pallavi never allowed him to meet any visitors. I saw the body and there were severe injuries on the left side of his neck. The stab marks indicate that he was harmed severely with vengeance," the officer said.

भारत सरकार टकसाल, मुंबई
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NOTICE

BOOKING FOR "150 Years of Bombay Stock Exchange" Commemorative Coins.

India Government Mint, Mumbai (A unit of Security Printing and Minting Corporation of India Ltd.) is pleased to notify booking of Commemorative coins in Proof and Uncirculated varieties of following themes.

Theme	Proof (₹)	UNC (₹)
150 Years of Bombay Stock Exchange – (Denomination of ₹ 150) – Folder Packing	3990.00	3775.00
150 Years of Bombay Stock Exchange – (Denomination of ₹ 150) – Wooden Packing	4285.00	NA

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-Sd-
Manager (Marketing)
For Chief General Manager

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KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN : U40109KA1999SGC025521)

No.CEE/T(O)ZM/SEE(O)/AEE-1/2025-26/378-80 Dated: 17.04.2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(THROUGH KARNATAKA PUBLIC PROCUREMENT PORTAL MODE ONLY)

KPTCL Bid Enquiry No: KPTCL/CEE/TZ/MYS/SEE(O)/AEE-1/2025-26/TL-TB/583/**CALL-04** Date:17.04.2025. KPTCL invites e-bids for "Providing LILO arrangement to 66kV Terakanambi Sub-station by stringing of 66kV 2nd Circuit on existing 66kV DC towers of 66kV Terakanambi SC line for a distance of 5.255kms in Gundlupete Taluk and Chamarajanagara District along with providing 01 No. of 66kV Terminal Bay (TB) at existing 66/11kV Terakanambi Sub-station in Gundlupete Taluk and Chamarajanagara District on Total Turn Key(TTK) Basis.

The tender for the above work is invited through electronic mode. The interested bidders can obtain the application in electronic mode by paying the tender fee. The detailed notification regarding above said enquiry in the E-tendering process can be obtained by logging on to KPTCL website: **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** on hyper link 'E Procurement KPTCL' or **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in on or after 21.04.2025.** Any other details can be had from the office of the undersigned during office hours.

Sd/- Chief Engineer Electy., Transmission (Operations) Zone, KPTCL, Prasarana Bhavana, Ground Floor, FTS Compound, NR Mohalla, Mysuru-570007. Ph: 0821-2455770 / 2455771

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JANA SMALL FINANCE BANK (A Scheduled Commercial Bank) | Registered Office: The Fairway, Ground & First Floor, Survey No.10/1, 11/2 &12/2B, Off Domlur, Koramangala Inner Ring Road, Next to EGL Business Park, Challaghatta, Bangalore-560071.

E-AUCTION NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE FOR SALE THROUGH E-AUCTION UNDER THE SECURITISATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT (SARFAESI ACT) 2002, READ WITH PROVISO RULE 8(6) & 9 OF SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES 2002.

The undersigned as authorised officer of **Jana Small Finance Bank Limited** has **taken possession** of the following property in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(4) of the SARFAESI ACT. The Borrower in particular and public at large are informed that online auction (e-auction)of the mortgage property in the below mentioned account for realisation of dues of the Bank will be held on **"AS IS WHERE IS BASIS "** and **"AS IS WHAT IS BASIS"** on the date as prescribed as here under.

Sr. No.	Loan Account Number	Name of Original Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantor	Date of 13-2 Notice	Date of Possession	Present Outstanding balance as on 18.04.2025	Date & Time of Inspection of the property	Reserve Price in INR	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) in INR	Date and Time of E-Auction	Last Date Time & Place for submission of Bid
1	46989630000751	1) Mr. Narasimhamurthy H, 2) Mrs. Jayamma G	07.11.2024	10.04.2025	Rs.4,48,934.38 (Rupees Four Lakhs Forty Eight Thousand Nine Hundred Thirty Four and Thirty Eight Paisa Only)	12.05.2025 Time: 09:30 AM to 05:00 PM	Rs.11,29,000/- (Rupees Eleven Lakh Twenty Nine Thousand Only)	Rs.1,12,900/- (Rupees One Lakh Twelve Thousand Nine Hundred Only)	26.05.2025 @ 02:00 PM	23.05.2025, Till 5.00 PM Jana Small Finance Bank Ltd., The Fairway, Ground & First Floor, Survey No.10/1, 11/2 & 12/2B, Off Domlur, Koramangla Inner Ring Road, Next to EGL Business Park, Challaghatta, Bangalore-560071
	Details of Secured Assets: All that piece and parcel of the Property bearing Assessment No.226/296/2, E Katha No.150300300900320226, situated at Kodihalli Village comes within the Channadevi Agrahara Village Panchayath, Doddaballapura Taluk, Bangalore Rural District, Measuring East to West: 5.0292 Meters, North to South: 16.764 Meters, Totally Measuring 84.31 Sq.mtrs and **Bounded on the: East by:** Sandu, **West by:** Bylappa House, **North by:** Charandi, **South by:** Road.									
2	47059440000083	1) Mr. Paramesh P, 2) Mrs. Mangala P	11.11.2024	09.04.2025	Rs.2,75,416.37 (Rupees Two Lakhs Seventy Five Thousand Four Hundred Sixteen and Thirty Seven Paisa Only)	12.05.2025 Time: 09:30 AM to 05:00 PM	Rs.4,29,000/- (Rupees Four Lakh Twenty Nine Thousand Only)	Rs.42,900/- (Rupees Forty Two Thousand Nine Hundred Only)	26.05.2025 @ 02:00 PM	23.05.2025, Till 5.00 PM Jana Small Finance Bank Ltd., The Fairway, Ground & First Floor, Survey No.10/1, 11/2 & 12/2B, Off Domlur, Koramangla Inner Ring Road, Next to EGL Business Park, Challaghatta, Bangalore-560071
	Details of Secured Assets: All that piece and parcel of the Property bearing E-Property No.152900201301400114 Grama Panchayat Property No.81/47/2, Measuring East to West 1st Part: 10.21 Meter (33 1/2 Feet) North to South 1st Part: 8.38 Meter (27 Feet) East to West 2nd Part: 2.44 Meter (8 Feet) North to South 2nd Part 4.57 Meter (15 Feet) and including house measuring East to West 2.44 meters (8 feet) and North to South 4.57 meters (15 feet) situated at Agara Village, T. Hosahalli Grama Panchayath, Maralavadi Hobli, Kanakapura Taluk, Ramanagara District and **Bounded on: East by:** Govt. Road, **West by:** Property belongs to Basavegowda @Nayana, **North by:** Property belongs to Chikkalegowda, **South by:** Property belongs to Bolegowda.									

The properties are being held on **"AS IS WHERE IS BASIS"** & **"AS IS WHAT IS BASIS"** and the E-Auction will be conducted **'On Line'.** The auction will be conducted through the Bank's approved service provider **M/s. 4 Closure** at the web portal **https://bankauctions.in** & **www.foreclosureindia.com.** For more information and For details, help, procedure and online training on e-auction, prospective bidders may contact **M/s. 4 Closure; Contact Mr. M Srinivasulru Contact Number: 8142000809. Email id: info@bankauctions.in/ srinivas@bankauctions.in.**

For further details on terms and conditions to take part in e-auction proceedings and any for any query relating to property please contact **Jana Small Finance Bank authorized officers Mr. Ranjan Naik (Mob. No.6362952653), Mr. Umesh (Mob. No.8050149617) & Mrs. Syeda (Mob. No.7400445147).** To the best of knowledge and information of the Authorised Officer, there are no encumbrances on the properties. However the intending bidders should make their own independent inquiries regarding the encumbrances, title of property put on prior to submitting their bid. No conditional bid will be accepted. This is also a notice to the above named Borrowers/ Guarantor's/ Mortgagors about e-auction scheduled for the mortgaged properties. The Borrower/ Guarantor/ Mortgagor are hereby notified to pay the sum as mentioned above along with up to date interest and ancillary expenses before the date of auction, failing which the property will be sold and balance dues if any will be recovered with interest and cost.

Date: 21.04.2025, Place: Bangalore Rural — Sd/- Authorized Officer, Jana Small Finance Bank Limited

XPRESS FOCUS SMD INITIATIVE

A HISTORICAL ACHIEVEMENT

12 First-Generation Learners from KISS Clear JEE-Main, Rewrite Their Futures

Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences (KISS) continues to stand tall as a shining example of educational empowerment, social upliftment, and inclusive excellence. This has been demonstrated once again as 12 tribal students from KISS have cracked the JEE Main 2025 examination, the results of which were declared on Saturday. All of them have qualified for JEE-Advanced.

For these students, this isn't just an academic milestone, it's the realisation of a dream, a moment that promises to transform not just their lives, but also those of their families and communities.

One such story of triumph begins in the remote and insurgency-hit district of Malkangiri, Odisha, where Madhu Madkami, a young boy from the Koya tribe, first dared to dream. He enrolled at KISS in Class XI, armed with little more than hope and an indomitable spirit. Today, he stands tall among the JEE Main qualifiers, scoring an impressive 65.93 in the national-level exam. His journey from the margins of society to the threshold of India's premier engineering institutions is symbolic of what KISS stands for.

What makes the results even more significant is that all 12 students are first-generation learners. Many of them joined KISS at a tender age, some as early as Class I and Class II.

Their commitment and hard work tell an inspiring tale. These students belong to a range of tribal sub-communities such as Santal, Koya, Sabar, Mundari, Oram, Bhuyan, and Saura, each with its own distinct cultural identity and legacy of struggle.

Among them are seven girls. From Sandhya Lakra who joined KISS in Class 3, to Sunita Tudu from Jharkhand, these young women have defied centuries-old societal norms and carved their place in the ever-evolving competitive world of education and learning.

- 12 first-generation tribal students from KISS cleared JEE Main 2025 and qualified for JEE Advanced.
- Seven of them are girls, marking a significant step for gender inclusion in tribal education.
- Students belong to multiple tribal communities across Odisha and Jharkhand.
- Madhu Madkami from Malkangiri emerged as a standout performer with a score of 65.93.
- All received dedicated coaching and mentorship under the personal guidance of Dr. Achyuta Samanta, Founder of KISS.
- The achievement reflects KISS's continued success in transforming lives through education.

While the majority of the qualifiers hail from Odisha, three students—Maghu Soren, Singo Murmu, and Sunita Tudu—came from neighbouring Jharkhand, putting their faith in KISS's promise of quality education.

All the JEE aspirants received dedicated coaching and personalised academic support, all under the direct guidance of Dr. Achyuta Samanta, the Founder of KIIT and KISS. Dr. Samanta took a personal interest in the preparation of these students, often monitoring their progress and providing both encouragement and resources.

Expressing his joy over the success, Dr Samanta congratulated all the successful students, noting, "Every year, KISS students continue to excel in the JEE examination. Their consistent performance in various competitive exams—be it regional, national, or international—proves that focused attention and a quality academic environment can work wonders." He also extended his heartfelt thanks to the teachers and staff of KISS, whose tireless dedication has been instrumental in nurturing this talent.

The state BJP is all set to launch the third phase of the 'Janakrosh Yatra' from the Central Karnataka city of Davanagere on Monday. State BJP president BY Vijayendra will lead the rally. The district BJP has planned to assemble nearly 12,000 people for the rally

'INFRA WILL BE DEVELOPED UNDER BRAND BENGALURU'

FROM a slew of infrastructure projects announced for Bengaluru, to initiatives taken by the state government to foster growth in Tier-1 and Tier-2 cities, **SR Umashankar**, Additional Chief Secretary, Urban Development Department (UDD), shared key aspects related to infrastructure development in the state. In an interaction with the TNIE editorial team, he said while the state is lagging behind in terms of infrastructure, the government is fast-forwarding the implementation of key projects. Excerpts from the interaction.

After nearly a one-year stint as Additional Chief Secretary of the UDD, you are retiring from service in a few days. What changes have happened during your tenure?
As ACS, UDD, my work mainly concentrates on the development of Bengaluru city and its maintenance. At present, we estimate the city's population to be 1.4 crore. That being so, it is important to diagnose the issue. Our infrastructure is 10 years behind. I told the UDD to start something massive for the city, otherwise in three years, we will be in a bad situation. The government has initiated 'Brand Bengaluru', under which it wants to show results in eight sectors, the major one being infrastructure. In 2025-26, in the state as well as BBMP budget, we announced a slew of big projects. Projects for more than Rs 1 lakh crore have been announced, including the Rs 27,000-crore worth 73-km Peripheral Ring Road. The BBMP and BDA were not in a position to take up the project. So we took the guarantee from the state government and went for a loan, and have started land acquisition. Maybe in three years, when the project is completed, it will ease traffic. Another mega project we have taken up is the Tunnel Road.

Are scientific studies being conducted before starting the Tunnel Road project?
Yes, tests have been done. Two major tunnels — north-south and east-west — are planned to ease CBD traffic. It's a PPP project, and initial talks have been held with investors, based on their technical inputs. A DPR is yet to be done, it will include soil tests and final cost estimates — which is expected to be around Rs 40,000 crore. Due to the lack of large tunnelling machines in India, twin tunnels are planned with three lanes each.

Is Bengaluru's geological crust suitable for tunnel construction?
Yes, Bengaluru's crust is conducive for tunnelling, as it consists of hard rock, which has already been proven through Metro construction. Geologists have approved it. However, challenges may arise due to the deeper tunnel depth of 50-60 feet, compared to the smaller and shallower Metro tunnels.

Was a proposal for an additional tunnel road connecting highways discussed during the recent meeting between the CM and Union Minister Nitin Gadkari?
The Union minister also endorsed tunnel roads as a better solution. These proposals are still in early stages. Like the Metro, which faced initial challenges but improved over time, the tunnel project will take longer initially, but will become smoother as experience and financing improve.

Why can't we improve the frequency of Metro services, considered it's one of the best and fastest modes of transport?
Frequency can't be increased beyond a limit due to technical constraints. Currently, trains run every 5 minutes during peak times. A shorter gap could cause signalling and mechanical issues, leading to accidents.

Is it possible to add more coaches to increase capacity?
No, adding more coaches isn't feasible. The platforms and tracks are designed to handle a fixed load. Since the Metro is elevated, it cannot support weight beyond the calculated load due to structural limitations. Safety factors and the design of the system also need to be considered, and the tracks can't accommodate excessive load like ground-level railways.

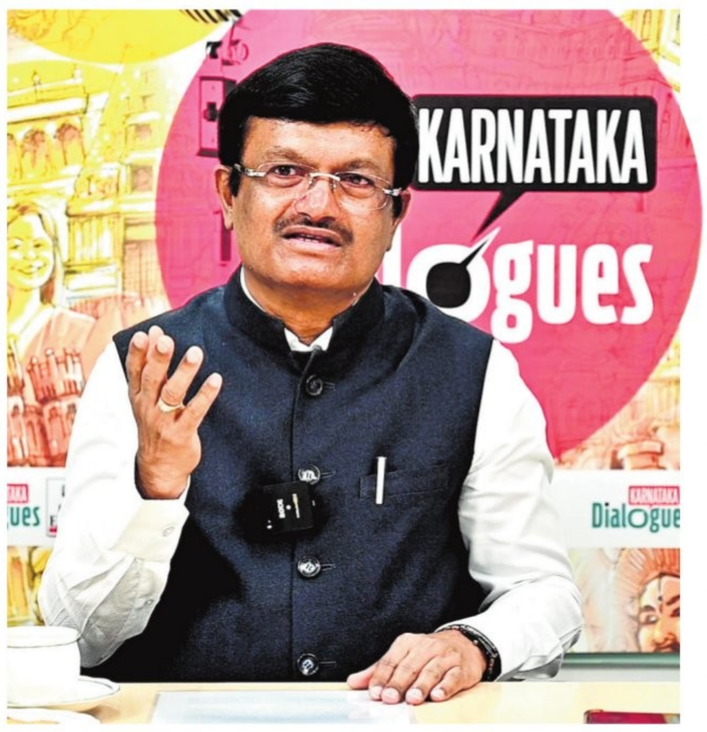
Why can't we make the Metro more affordable?
If the government is capable of subsidizing, it could make the Metro more affordable. However, the Central government only contributes 13% of the total cost, and it would require more to subsidise. Metro fares were not increased for many years, imagine the increase in the cost of operations.

What are the challenges before Urban Local Bodies, including BBMP, to be financially independent?
Octroi, a tax on goods entering the city, was abolished. If octroi is allowed to continue, local bodies need not worry about finances. For example, Bengaluru alone is generating around Rs 5lakh crore in the form of taxes from GST. Property tax is one of the major revenues for ULBs, like BBMP. We are number one in India, and there is no problem in collection, but in bringing lakhs of properties outside the tax net, which we are working on without violating the SC ruling.

There seems to be a lot of confusion among property taxpayers on 'parking tax'...
It is a favour to the public. Earlier, parking area too was calculated in the total area of the property, but is now leading to higher taxes. To encourage properties to make provision for parking, the fee is fixed at Rs 2 per sqft for residential buildings and Rs 3 per sqft for commercial buildings. Also, we have allowed property owners to use up to 4.5 metres for stilt parking. For instance, if a building's maximum permissible height is 15 metres, they can add another 4.5 metres stilt parking. So contrary to the concern raised, the new parking tax will be beneficial to people.

What about the development of tier-2 cities? Does the government intend to promote their growth?

The intent is very much there. It is reflected in our policies, be they industrial or investment-related. We have different investment policies for different sectors, and in each, we've incentivized investment in tier-2 and tier-3 cities. But investors are not moving. People are lured by the name of Bengaluru. Karnataka is recognized globally largely because of Bengaluru, that's the magnetic pull of the city.



EXPRESS Dialogues

What is your opinion on the proposed Greater Bangalore Authority? Do we really need six or seven municipal corporations?
BBMP area has become too large, both geographically and population-wise. If someone from Mahadevapura or Kengeri has to come to the city centre to resolve an issue, it becomes very difficult. One commissioner cannot effectively manage the affairs of such distant locations, so decentralizing administration has several advantages.

But the Delhi model of two municipal corporations failed?
Delhi was made completely independent, which led to coordination problems. In the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA), we've studied older models and specifically looked at Bengaluru's issues. We've made provisions for up to seven corporations, but we don't need to start with all seven. The government could begin with just three. In that case, there would be three corporations and one overarching institution, the GBA. These corporations will retain their constitutional powers as per the 74th Amendment and function independently within their jurisdictions. GBA will handle coordination and macro-level planning, especially for infrastructure projects like roads or Metro lines that span multiple regions. The GBA will not receive funds from these corporations; instead, it will be funded directly by the state government to undertake large-scale infrastructure projects. This setup ensures both coordination and local autonomy so that each corporation can address area-specific issues more effectively.

Bengaluru has an international reputation, yet struggles with garbage and flooding issues. Why is that?
Bengaluru is not a small town where problems can be solved once and for all. We have comprehensive plans, and a lot of work is being done but only the failures get highlighted. Just imagine if waste wasn't cleared every day, what would the city look like? The very absence of uncollected waste shows how much is being done daily. Bengaluru generates nearly 6,000 tonnes of waste every day. Disposal is a huge challenge. We can't dispose of waste within city limits — we have to transport it 40-50km away. Even collection and transportation become highly complex and costly. Another issue is the lack of civic sense. Regarding rajakaluves, we are clearing drains and it will be tackled within two years. We have completed STPs for five major lakes, and work is going on for another 15 to 17 lakes. The city can manage normal rainfall but not a situation like a cloudburst.

Why can't civic sense be enforced with fines?
Marshals are appointed to catch people and impose fines. Cases are also booked. Some people dump debris into lakes. We have caught such people and got FIRs registered against them. Still people want to take chances. We are installing CCTVs and collecting information through CCTV feeds.

Cauvery Stage V has come, what are the next plans?
Cauvery Stage VI is already on. We have allotted 6tmcft water from KRS Dam which has to be lifted directly. Once pumped, it will come to the border of Bengaluru through gravity. We have to cover the fringe areas. In the fifth stage, we covered 110 villages. Now we are going up to Hoskote, Devanahalli, Nelamangala, Magadi, Bidadi. It is expected to cost more than Rs 6,000 crore.

Do we need projects like Skydeck?
The Skydeck has been identified as a key attraction, especially given the lack of entertainment options. For an international city, the availability of spaces for relaxation is essential. Entertainment is recognised as a basic urban necessity. There is a growing need for well-planned, multi-purpose spaces where people can gather, engage in cultural activities, and find relief from routine urban stress. The Skydeck is envisioned as one such space, and an iconic tower has been proposed. World-class facilities are now seen as necessary for a city like Bangalore, which aspires to maintain its global standing. Visible progress requires at least two to three years.

Shouldn't there be more open spaces for cultural activities?
The need for more open spaces to host cultural activities has been acknowledged. Plans are on to develop such spaces in different areas of the city.

Any projects for better management of waste?
With increasing waste generation, the requirement for around 100 acres of land in four different directions has been identified. This land will not be used for dumping, but for waste processing. Legacy waste from old dump sites is being removed and processed. Multiple methods are being employed to manage waste. Construction debris is also being crushed to extract reusable materials like sand, contributing to recycling efforts. Acquiring 100 acres at various locations has proven difficult. As a solution, secondary stations or transfer stations are being set up. These can handle up to 100 tons of waste and help decentralise the process.

What is the situation regarding suburban trains?
Suburban train service has been launched under a new name, K-Ride, which is already under way. Additional railway lines are being added alongside existing ones, with two new lines dedicated solely to city traffic. It is planned to extend these lines beyond the city limits as well. Construction work is in progress. Currently, small-scale land acquisition is taking place to set up stations and improve inter-connectivity, and this process is already under way. However, the railway line extends beyond Bengaluru city to other cities. The question now is whether we should extend the railway line to cities like Ramanagara in the south, Nelamangala in the north-west, or Chikkabanavara in the north. Planning is in progress.

What lessons must other cities learn from Bengaluru?
We definitely have both experience and lessons to draw from. Several schemes are already in place, for instance, in waste management. Most cities have sewage treatment plants, urban drainage systems, and rainwater harvesting setups. Around 80 per cent of waste in many urban local bodies is now being disposed of properly. There are over 215 urban local bodies in the state. Among them, only Bengaluru poses a major challenge, not just in waste management, but also in water supply, traffic and other urban issues. We have about 10 major municipal corporations, and 2-3 more were recently added. They receive dedicated funding through programmes like the Chief Minister's Nagarothana scheme. The 15th Finance Commission has also provided significant support. We don't want them to become another Bengaluru, which has turned into a black hole, attracting investments and enterprises, which in turn has stunted the balanced growth of surrounding towns and cities.

Talks of change in CM's post irrelevant: Dr G

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

HOME Minister G Parameshwara on Sunday said speculation on a change of guard in the state is irrelevant. "I will not comment on the debate on change in the chief minister's post as the matter is irrelevant now," he told reporters when his attention was drawn to some religious heads reportedly wishing him to be the CM.

On praises heaped on Chief Minister Siddaramaiah at a Kuruba event in Tumakuru on Saturday, he said, "If truth be told, what is the point of praising? Isn't it true that Siddaramaiah presented 16 budgets? He has achieved economic harmony in the state despite giving five guarantees. If one thinks this is sycophancy, let it be."

Asked about minister Satish Jarakiholi's statement that it would take more than a year to implement the 'caste census' report, Parameshwara termed it as the former's personal opinion. "He has expressed his personal opinion. The cabinet will take a decision. I don't see anything complicated about it," he said.

On the attack on reformed gangster Muthappa Rai's son Ricky Rai, he said who fired the shots will be known only after the investigation. "One cannot speculate on such matters. I don't even know about the involvement of Rakesh Malli (a former Congress INTUC president)," he said.

DCM DK Shivakumar seeks blessings at Dharmasthala Sri Manjunatha Swamy Temple in Dakshina Kannada on Sunday | x

DKS: Cong will come back to power in '28, win 10 seats in DK, Udupi

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Mangaluru

DEPUTY Chief Minister D K Shivakumar on Sunday said as per his survey, the Congress will return to power in 2028 and the party will win 10 seats in Dakshina Kannada and Udupi.

Speaking to reporters in Belthangady on the party's strategy in the coastal region, he said, "We won only two seats in Dakshina Kannada. There is a strong government in the state. We will return to power; there is no doubt about it. People voted for the BJP and elected them in the last elections. But it is the Congress that is helping every family, not the BJP. We have to make people understand that."

Asked about the Congress following soft Hindutva, Shivakumar said, "Who says that Dakshina Kannada is a Hindutva fortress? Dakshina Kannada is a fortress of all religions. The water here, the temples, dargah, environment and atmosphere, the sea—do they belong to one caste or religion? The religious centres here are for everyone. The BJP says 'Hindu Navu Ondhu' but we consider all Hindus, Christians, Muslims, Jains, Lingayats, Vokkaligas, Billavas and all communities as one. We protect every section of the society."

Addressing a party rally later, the minister stressed the need to protect Gandhian principles and constitutional values. "The party takes all religions together and works for their welfare," he said.

He pointed out that when the Congress announced the five guarantees, the BJP had said that it can't be implemented. "But women have benefitted under the Gruha Lakshmi scheme. Women who voted for the BJP also thanked the Congress. BJP is trying to stop all the guarantees, but they will not succeed. The lotus should be in the pond and the hand that donates should be in power.

Stating that as per his survey, they will win 10 seats in Dakshina Kannada and Udupi districts, he said in Belthangady too, the Congress candidate will win.

"We have better plans to generate employment in the coastal region. In 2028, the Congress will return to power. Coastal Karnataka was the fortress of the Congress and we have hopes of winning the region again. Be ready as elections to local administrations will be announced any time. Nobody is permanent in politics. Our priority is protecting our party workers as they are our wealth."

'AT 82, INDIA HAS MORE RAMSAR SITES THAN CHINA'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVCIE
@ Bengaluru

AT 82, India has now surpassed China in the number of designated Ramsar sites, but this comes at a time when the world has already lost 87% of its wetlands, Secretary General of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands Dr Musonda Mumba has said.

Speaking at the Sinhasi Social Impact Initiative Conference 2 on "Wetland Conservation and Climate Change" on Sunday, Dr Mumba urged immediate and large-scale action to protect these fragile ecosystems, which are disappearing three times faster than forests.

Dr Mumba touched upon the alarming rate of wetland loss, the link between wetlands and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the role of communities in conservation, and the need to treat wetlands as critical natural infrastructure. She praised India's cultural and ecological connection to wetlands, pointing to the pressures on urban wetlands like in Bengaluru, and stressed the importance of better monitoring, funding, and partnerships. She also highlighted the upcoming Conference of the Parties (COP15) in

Zimbabwe and the Global Wetland Outlook, which will assess the real cost of wetland loss.

Highlighting about the upcoming Global Wetland Outlook, to be released at COP15, Dr Mumba said, "We are trying to quantify the cost of losing wetlands — not just financially, but in terms of biodiversity, livelihoods, and resilience. What would it cost if we lost a wetland like Yashwant Sagar in Indore? What are the public and private investments needed to protect such sites? The report will also examine how agriculture and land-use change remain among the biggest drivers of wetland loss, and how financial flows must be unlocked to preserve them. We need to start valuing wetlands as natural capital and invest accordingly," she said.

Dr Mumba, who visited India for the first time last year, highlighted that wetlands are not only intrinsic to India's geography — from the frozen wetlands of the Himalayas to the Sundarbans — but also to its culture and food systems, including rice paddies. She, however, pointed out that wetlands are often treated as wastelands. Species dependent on wetlands are vanishing. Some are threatened, others already extinct, she added.

Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Meenakshi Negi, said conservation and development must go hand-in-hand, and stressed on the need to build resilient institutions that can deliver on global environmental targets.

Sharing an example from her previous role at the National Commission for Women, Negi spoke about how women serving life sentences in prisons were trained to convert water hyacinth — an invasive aquatic plant — into eco-friendly paper and fibre products. She said that such convergence — between entrepreneurship, sustainability, and rehabilitation — is key to building inclusive and effective conservation models. "We need to shift from just policy to practice. Without on-ground change, targets will remain on paper," she added.

EXPRESS READ

CASTE CENSUS REPORT IS FAKE, ALLEGES ASHOKA

Bengaluru: Terming the Socio-Economic Survey report fake, Leader of Opposition R Ashoka alleged that former Backward Classes Commission Chairman Jayaprakash Hegde has written to the state government, stating that the original copy of the caste census report is not available. Ashoka demanded that the state government clarify where the Rs 150 crore went that was allegedly spent to prepare the survey and report. Ashoka told reporters on Sunday that Congress ministers are calling the report authentic. "But Jayaprakash Hegde has written to the government about the report, noting that when the sealed box was opened in 2021, it was observed that the report did not bear the signatures of the commission's previous chairpersons. The letter mentions that the original report is not available," he alleged. Further, Ashoka said former chairman Kantharaju did not sign the report, and the original report is at CM Siddaramaiah's house. **ENS**

Former India skipper Mohammed Azharuddin is planning to approach the Telangana High Court, seeking a stay on the Hyderabad Cricket Association Ombudsman's order to remove his name from the North Stand at the Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium

SIDDU SEEKS CENTRE'S SUPPORT FOR STALLED IRRIGATION PROJECTS

Can start work immediately if Union govt grants permission, says CM

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Belagavi

KARNATAKA CHIEF Minister Siddaramaiah has urged the Central government to expedite major irrigation projects in the state that were stalled due to lack of permissions and highlighted the delay in the Mahadayi project.

At a divisional-level agricultural equipment distribution ceremony at Suvarna Vidhana Soudha in Belagavi on Sunday, Siddaramaiah emphasised the state's readiness to implement projects like Mahadayi, Mekedatu and the Krishna Upper River Project as soon as approvals are secured.

He criticised the delay in receiving forest clearances for the Mahadayi project, stating that work could commence "tomorrow itself" if the Centre grants permission.

The CM stressed that irrigation remains a top priority for the Karnataka government, which has committed over Rs 25,000 crore toward major and minor irrigation initiatives. "In an agriculture-based country, it is our duty to support farmers," he said, reaffirming the government's commitment to completing all pending irrigation projects swiftly.

Highlighting the government efforts to bolster agriculture, Siddaramaiah mentioned the 'Krishi Bhagya' scheme that is aimed at supporting dryland farmers, with Rs 200 crore allocated for its implementation. The government also constructed more than 25,000 agricultural wells across Karnataka last year, he said.

Acknowledging the declining number of agricultural workers, Siddaramaiah emphasised the increasing need for mechanisation. He announced subsidies for modern agricultural equipment, especially in the Belagavi division where sugarcane cultivation is expanding. General category farmers will receive a 40% subsidy, while Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe farmers will benefit from a 50% subsidy on advanced sugarcane harvesting machinery.

Siddaramaiah distributed agricultural equipment worth Rs 40 crore, including 78 sugarcane harvesters, 100 power tillers, 165 rotovators, 120 ploughs, 100 fodder cutters, 64 seed drills, 26 pile drivers, five stubble cutters, 12 soil sprayers and 1,480 sprinklers.

Agricultural equipment worth Rs 40 crore was distributed by CM Siddaramaiah to farmers at the Suvarna Vidhana Soudha in Belagavi on Sunday | EXPRESS

JANIVARA ROW

Khandre offers free engg seat to CET student

RAMAKRISHNA BADSESHI
@ Kalaburagi/Bidar

KARNATAKA MINISTER for Forest, Ecology, and Environment Eshwar Khandre, who is also Bidar district in-charge minister, offered a free engineering seat at his Bhimanna Khandre Institute of Engineering in Bhalki to Suchivrat Kulkarni, a student who was denied entry to the examination hall to write the mathematics paper in the Common Entrance Test (CET) as he was wearing a janivara (sacred thread). Khandre visited Suchivrat's residence in Old Bidar on Sunday morning.

The minister said that the prescribed dress code for CET does not prohibit candidates from wearing janivara. It is the mistake of the private institute (Sai Spoorthi PU College) where the centre was located, Khandre said, adding that he had instructed Bidar Deputy Commissioner Shilpa Sharma to ask the president of the PU college to terminate the service of those responsible for the incident.

As per the orders of DC, the head of the institute terminated the service of Principal Chandrashekhar Biradar and Second Division Assistant Satish Pawar.

Khandre said that he has already spoken to Higher Education Minister Dr MC Sudhakar and requested him to conduct a separate CET examination for Suchivrat. Khandre further said that he is also ready to provide all assistance to Suchivrat if he gets an engineering seat in COMEDK.

A day after the incident, the higher education department, Karnataka Examinations Authority, and Khandre sought a report from the Bidar DC. Meanwhile, the DC conducted an inquiry and submitted a report stating that Suchivrat was denied permission to write the mathematics paper as he was wearing a janivara.

Minister for Forest, Ecology and Environment Eshwar Khandre interacts with Suchivrat Kulkarni and his father in Bidar on Sunday | EXPRESS

SEPARATE TEST?

Higher Education Department has convened a meeting on April 21 to explore the possibilities of conducting a separate CET examination for Suchivrat Kulkarni, Secretary to Higher Education Department KG Jagadish told TNIE. Executive Director of the Karnataka Examinations Authority Prasanna said that if the Higher Education Department asks the Karnataka Examinations Authority to conduct a separate exam, they will hold it. "There is sufficient time to conduct it," he said.

GUILTY WILL BE PUNISHED: DKS

DyCM DK Shivakumar on Sunday said that State Government will punish those responsible for asking the CET candidates to remove their janivara. At a gathering during a programme organised by Belthangady Goudara Yane Vokkaligara Sangha in Belthangady, Dakshina Kannada, Shivakumar said, "The government does not interfere in religious matters. Our government is committed to protecting every religion. Nobody needs to panic." He further said that people must protect mutts like their homes. "Only then can we protect our religion," he said.

Dharwad student too told to remove janivara

MALLIKARJUN HIREMATH
@ Dharwad

A second PU student in Dharwad too was asked to remove his janivara before writing the chemistry paper of the CET on April 17. The authorities at the entrance of Hurkadli College, which was his test centre, asked him to remove the janivara. When he offered to remove it and keep it in his bag, the authorities refused. Angry with them, he cut the janivara in two on the spot and put it in the bag. He was later allowed to write the test. "After incidents from other places in the state started coming out in the open, I told my parents about it," he said. Labour and district in-charge minister Santosh Lad said he will act if he gets written complaints of such incidents. "It is not clear whether those indulging in such acts are government officials or private employees. The issue will be addressed," he added.

'CANNOT BREAK JANIVARA TRADITION'

RAMAKRISHNA BADSESHI
@ Kalaburagi/ Bidar

THERE was no fear in me when I declined to remove my janivara (sacred thread) to write the Mathematics CET paper, said Suchivrat Kulkarni, who was denied permission to write the paper on April 17. He said customs which have been followed for centuries are supreme. Suchivrat told *TNIE* that it did not occur to him that his future could be affected if he refused to remove the sacred thread. "It did not come to my mind. I am a strict follower of traditions," he said.

"The principal and other staff insisted that I remove my janivara to write the Mathematics paper, and I pleaded with them not to insist on breaking tradition, but they did not listen to me. I waited for a few minutes and went home. When there is no provision to prevent me from wearing janivaara while writing an exam, why did they prevent me from writing the Mathematics paper but allowed me to write the first two papers on April 16, and Biology paper on April 17 afternoon? I will never understand this," he asked.

Suchivrat thanked the Brahmin, Lingayat and other communities for supporting his stand and putting pressure on the government to get him justice. He said he is also thankful to Bidar district minister Eshwar Khandre for visiting his house and assuring him of a free seat in the Bheemanna Khandre Institute of Engineering.

His mother Neeta Kulkarni said that she and her family believe in the saying 'Dharmo Rakshati Rakshitaha' and that her son works hard and scores well. She said the seers of Puthige Mutt, Shankar Mutt, Uttaradi Mutt and Adichunchanagiri Mutt have spoken with her and assured her of all help.

EXPRESS READ

CPI(M) gen secy Baby meets Stalin, lauds apex court verdict on governors

CHENNAI: CPI(M) general secretary MA Baby met Tamil Nadu CM MK Stalin in Chennai on Sunday and congratulated him on the Supreme Court's verdict that curtails governors' powers in withholding assent to state legislation. In a social media post, Stalin said, "Comrade MA Baby, the newly elected CPI(M) general secretary, called on me and extended greetings for two significant developments - Supreme Court's historic verdict limiting the governor's role and the formation of a high-level committee for state autonomy."

Durai Vaiko drops move to quit as principal secy of MDMK

CHENNAI: MDMK leader and party founder Vaiko announced on Sunday that his son, Durai Vaiko, who offered to resign from his position as principal secretary on Saturday, has decided to withdraw the resignation after resolving his differences with party's deputy general secretary Mallai Sathya. Speaking to reporters in Chennai, Vaiko said both have agreed to work together for the party's welfare. Sathya also assured his full support to Durai Vaiko.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform to the General Public that my clients, Mr. Shanmugam Senthil, S/o. Mr. N. Shanmugam and Mrs. Devi Senthil, W/o. Mr. Shanmugam Senthil, have entered into an Agreement for sale on 09/01/2025 with M/s. Vanodhara Farms and on 04.02.2025 with Mr. Ravi Kant, to purchase and development of the land bearing Sy.No.95/1, measuring 19 Guntas, which is more fully described in the Schedule below. If any person/s having any claims, charges, objections, attachments, right, title and interest whatsoever over the Schedule Property or portion thereof in any manner whatsoever, may forward their objection/s if any, fully supported by documentary proof/s to the undersigned within 15 (Fifteen) days from the date of publication of this Notice, failing which my clients will deem that the Schedule Property is free from all kind of encumbrances and proceed for completion of the sale transactions by getting the sale deed registered in their favor and thereafter no claims will be considered/entertained.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of the land bearing Sy.No.95/1, measuring 19 Guntas, Khata No.45, MR H24/2024-2025 dated 05.03.2025, Assessment 0.71 paisa, situated at Kolalagundhi Village, Maralavadi Hobli, Harohalli Taluk (Earlier Kanakapura Taluk), Ramanagara district, and bounded on East by: Sy.No.95/2, West by: Sy.No.94/3, North by: Road and Sy.No.96/3 and South by: Sy.No.95/4.

M. Nagaraja, Advocate,
#25, 80 ft. Double Road, near Shanmukha Swamy Temple, BEML Layout 5th Stage, R.R. Nagar, Bangalore-98. Mob: 9844512959.

BEFORE THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-II AT BANGALORE
BSNL Building, 4th Floor,
Telephone House, Rajbhavan Road,
Bengaluru-560001.

T.A. No.469/2017

BETWEEN: Bank of India, Hanumanthnagar Branch ... **APPLICANT**
AND: M/s. Sait Technologies ... DEFENDANT

ADDRESS FOR SERVICE OF SUMMONS

1) M/s. Sait Technologies, No. 359, 9th Main Road, Vidyapeeta Extension, Bangalore 560 085. Represented by its Partners **1) Mr. Velayutham Chettiar M,** S/o. Muthukkaruppan Chettiar,
2) Mrs. Veena M.H. W/o. Mr. Mohan M.N.
2) Mr. Velayutham Chettiar M, S/o. Muthukkaruppan Chettiar, No. 359, 9th Main Road, Vidyapeeta Extension, Bangalore 560 085.
3) Mrs. Veena M.H, W/o. Mr. Mohan M.N, No. 864, Vidyapeetha Main Road, BSK 3rd Stage, BANGALORE - 560 085.

UNDER SECTION 23 (VIII) OF RDDB AND FI ACT 1993
SUMMONS

Whereas the applicant bank has instituted a an application under section 19 of the Recovery of Debts Due to Bank and Financial Institution Act 1993 against defendants for the recovery of Rs. 11,40,894/- [Rupees Eleven Lakhs Forty Thousand Eight Hundred Ninety Four Only] towards the liability Cash Credit facilities with costs and future interest at 13.75 % plus penal 2% p.a. as penal interest with compounded monthly rests from the date of application till payment and other reliefs. You are hereby required to show cause within 30 days of the service of this summons or on **23-05-2025** at 10.30 A. M. in persons or through an Advocate or duly Authorized agent duly instructed as to why the relief prayed for should not granted

Take notice that in case of default, the application will be heard and determined in your absence.

Given under my hand and seal of this Tribunal on 16-04-2025

By order of the Tribunal, Registrar, Debts Recovery Tribunal-II, Bangalore.

HQ MADRAS ENGINEER GROUP AND CENTRE
BANGALORE-560042
(Ministry of Defence, Government of India)

Applications are invited for the posts of CTI OEM for Defence Civilian Employees

Ser No	Name of Post	Post reserved for	Total Vacancies
01	**Civilian Trade Instructor (CTI):-** OEM (Operator Excavatory Machine)	SC	01
	Total		**01**

For further details of vacancies, scale of pay, eligibility criteria, education qualification, general terms, format of application and admit card, visit our website **https://indianarmy.nic.in.**

CBC 10622/11/0002/2526

CITY UNION BANK LIMITED
Credit Recovery and Management Department
Administrative Office : No. 24-B, Gandhi Nagar, Kumbakonam - 612 001. **E-Mail id :** crmd@cityunionbank.in, **Ph :** 0435-2432322, **Fax :** 0435-2431746

TENDER-CUM-AUCTION SALE NOTICE UNDER SARFAESI ACT 2002

The following property/ies mortgaged to **City Union Bank Limited** will be sold in Tender-cum Public Auction by the Authorised Officer of the Bank, under Rule 8 (6) & 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, under the SARFAESI Act, 2002, for recovery of a sum of **Rs.1,00,74,982/- (Rupees One Crore Seventy Four Thousand Nine Hundred and Eighty Two Only)** as on **14-04-2025** together with further interest to be charged from **15-04-2025** onwards and other expenses, any other dues to the Bank by the borrowers / guarantors **No.1) Mr.Jayasimha Karlapalam, S/o. Sivaram Sarma, Flat No.209, Niranjan Nectar Apartment, Bilekahalli, Bengaluru - 560076. Also at, Mr.Jayasimha Karlapalam, S/o.Sivaram Sarma, No.312, Radiant Heritage, Main Road Sarjapura, Hobli, 93/3, Rayasandra Village, Near Government school, Anekal, Bangalore South - 560099. No.2) Mrs.B.K Lavanya, W/o.Jayasimha Karlapalam, Flat No.209, Niranjan Nectar Apartment, Bilekahalli, Bengaluru - 560076.**

Immovable Property Mortgaged to our Bank
(Property Owned by Mr.Jayasimha Karlapalam, S/o. Sivaram Sarma)

All that piece and parcel of Residential Premises bearing Nagara Sabhe Municipal, Assessment No.1447/71/63/1, 63/2, No.63, Janjar Number 72, Ward No.22 situated at Bangalore Urban District, Anekal Taluk, Attibele, Hebbagodi Village. Measuring: East to West 20 feet and Norrth to South 45 feet in all 900 Square feet along with the RCC roofed Residential building existing thereon in an Area of 800 Square feet of Ground Floor and 800 square feet of First Floor having Red-Oxide Flooring with all Civic amenities and Bounded as follows:- East by : Road, West by : Private Property, North by : Road, South by : Munikrishnappa Property.

Reserve Price : Rs.1,00,00,000/-
(Rupees One Crore only)

AUCTION DETAILS

Date of Tender-cum-Auction Sale	Venue
26-05-2025	**City Union Bank Limited, Bengaluru-Jigani Branch,** Plot No.3A1, 2nd Phase, Jigani Industrial Area Taluk, Jigani, Bangalore -560105, Cell No:9341055177

Terms and Conditions of Tender-cum-Auction Sale :

(1) The intending bidders should be present in person for the auction and participate personally and give a declaration in writing to the effect that he/she is bidding for himself/ herself. **(2)** The intending bidders may obtain the Tender Forms from **The Manager, City Union Bank Limited, Bengaluru-Jigani Branch, Plot No.3A1, 2nd Phase, Jigani Industrial Area Taluk, Jigani, Bangalore -560105 (3)** The intending bidders should submit their bids only in the Tender Form prescribed in sealed envelopes addressed to **The Authorised Officer, City Union Bank Ltd.,** together with a Pay Order / Demand Draft for an EMD of **10%** of the Reserve Price, drawn in favour of **"City Union Bank Ltd.", on or before 12.00 Noon** on the date of Tender-cum-Auction Sale hereby notified. **(4)** For inspection of the property and other particulars, the intending purchaser may contact **Cell No.9341055177. (5)** The property/ies are sold on "As-is-where-is", "As-is-what-is" and "whatever-there is" basis. **(6)** The sealed tenders will be opened in the presence of the intending bidders at **01.00 p.m.** on the date of Tender-cum-Auction Sale hereby notified. Though in general the sale will be by way of closed tenders, the Authorised Officer may, at his sole discretion, conduct an Open Auction among the interested bidders who desire to quote a bid higher than the one received in the closed tender process, and in such an event, the sale shall be conferred on the person making highest bid. The sale, however, is subject to confirmation of City Union Bank Limited. **(7)** The successful bidder shall have to pay **25% (inclusive of EMD paid)** of the sale amount **immediately** on completion of sale and the balance amount of **75%** within **15 days** from the date of confirmation of sale, failing which the initial deposit of **25%** shall be forfeited. **(8)** The Sale Certificate will be issued by the Authorised Officer in favour of the successful purchaser only after receipt of the entire sale consideration within the time limit stipulated herein. **(9)** The successful purchaser shall bear the charges/fees payable for conveyance, such as stamp duty, registration fee etc., as applicable under law. **(10)** The successful bidder should pay the statutory dues (lawful house tax, electricity charges and other dues), TDS, GST if any, due to Government, Government Undertaking and local bodies. **(11)** The Authorised Officer shall have all the powers to accept or reject the bids or postpone or cancel the sale without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Place : Kumbakonam, Date : 17-04-2025 **Authorised Officer**

Regd. Office : 149, T.S.R. (Big) Street, Kumbakonam, Thanjavur District, Tamil Nadu - 612 001, **CIN -** L65110TN1904PLC001287,
Telephone No. 0435-2402322, **Fax :** 0435-2431746, **Website :** www.cityunionbank.com

BEFORE THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-I AT BANGALORE
BSNL Building, 4th Floor,
Telephone House, Rajbhavan Road,
Bengaluru-560001.

O.A. No. 1622/2023

BETWEEN: STATE BANK OF INDIA, SME Centre, Banasawadi, Bengaluru-560113. ... **APPLICANT**
AND: M/s. R & P MARKETING ... DEFENDANT

To: **DEFENDANT: M/s. R & P MARKETING,** No.142/2, Ground Floor, Banjara Layout, Near Euro Kids, Horamavu Agara Main Road, Bangalore-560043. Represented by its Proprietor, Smt. Poonam Prajapati,

SUMMONS ISSUED UNDER RULE 23 (VIII) OF DRT (PROCEDURE) RULE 1996

1) WHEREAS, the Applicant has instituted an application under Section 19 of the Recovery of Debts due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 against the Defendant for recovery of Rs.25,96,554/- (Rupees twenty five lakh ninety six thousand five hundred and fifty four only) inclusive of interest till 01.07.2023 along with future interest from 02.07.2023 to till the date of realization of entire claim amount along with cost of this proceedings in respect of Cash Credit facility and for the reliefs.
2) You are hereby required to show cause within 30 days of the service of the summons or on **10/06/2025** at **10:30 A.M** in the forenoon in person or pleader/advocate duly instructed has to why the relief prayed for should not be granted.
3) Take notice that, in default of your appearance on the day mentioned herein before, the proceedings will heard and determined in your absence.

Given under my hand and seal of this Tribunal on this 11/04/2025

By order of the Tribunal, Registrar, Debts Recovery Tribunal-I, Bangalore.

IRCON INTERNATIONAL LIMITED
Navratna Company
(A Govt. of India Undertaking)
CIN – L45203DL1976GOI008171 Web: www.ircon.org

EXPRESION OF INTEREST
No. IRCON/BD/Tindivanam - Nagari/EOI/2025

Expression of Interest (EOI) invited for association as sub-contractor through pre-bid tie up from Experienced Agencies for **"Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) Agreement for Construction of new Railway BG line between Chainage 82.000 KM and Chainage 114.600 KM between Arani (Incl.) & Ranipet (Incl.) Stations (Reach III) and Chainage 141.500 and Chainage 170.000 between Sholinghur Town (Excl.) & Podatturpet (Excl.) (Reach V) including Utility Shifting in Proposed New BG Railway line between Tindivanam and Nagari new BG line project [SOUTHERN RAILWAY (CONSTRUCTION)]"**

For further details and updates, please visit e-Procurement portal www.etenders.gov.in /eprocure/app. Amendments/ Corrigendum, if any, would be hosted on the website only.

Chief General Manager / Business Development

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the public at large that **DreamGains Financials India Private Limited holding SEBI Registration Number: INA200002973 and BSE Investment Adviser Enlistment No.:1309, have decided to surrender the Investment Adviser registration certificate granted by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI).**

Accordingly, the process for surrender of the registration certificate has been initiated with SEBI.

Any person having any **claims, complaints, or grievances** in respect of the above-mentioned Investment Advisory activities is hereby requested to lodge their grievances at the SEBI complaint redressal portal **SCORES** at www.scores.gov.in at the earliest.

This notice is issued in the interest of transparency and compliance with applicable regulatory requirements.

KUNAL VIPIN SHAH
DIRECTOR
DREAMGAINS FINANCIALS INDIA PRIVATE LIMITED

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DEMAND NOTICE

Under Section 13(2) of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 ("Act") read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 ("Rules").

Now, whereas the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of Bandhan Bank Limited under the Act and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Rules, already issued Demand Notice(s) dated below under Section 13(2) of the Act, calling upon the Borrower(s)/Guarantor(s)/Mortgagor(s) (all singularly or together referred to the "obligors") listed hereunder, to pay the amounts mentioned in the respective Demand Notice(s) within 60 days from the date of the respective Notice(s) as per the details given below. Copies of the said Notice(s) were issued by Speed Post and are available with the undersigned, and further, the said Obligor(s) may, if they so desire, collect the respective copy from the undersigned on any working day during normal office hours.

In connection with the above and due to non-service of the Notice(s) for various reason, it is hereby given, once again, to the said Borrower(s)/Guarantor(s)/Mortgagor(s) to pay to Bandhan Bank Limited, within 60 days from the date of the respective Notice(s), the amounts indicated herein below against their respective names, together with further interest till the date of payment and/or realisation. As security for due repayment of the loan, the following Secured Asset(s) have been mortgaged to Bandhan Bank Limited by the said Obligor(s) respectively.

Loan Account Nos.	Name of the Borrower/Guarantor/ Mortgagor	Total Outstanding Dues (₹) as on below date	Date of Demand Notice	Date of NPA	Description of the Movable & Immovable Property
20500003342994 (CGTMSE-Cash Credit) **6236807232830001 (Term Loan)**	1. **M/s. Doll Plast India (Borrower),** Shed No. 10, Kannahalli Bus Stop, Sighahalli Gate, Magadi Main Road, Bangalore Urban-560091 2. **Ms. Komal Baid (Proprietrix/Guarantor),** and **Mr. Devendra Baid (Co-Borrower),** Flat No. 702, 7th Floor, Birla Apple Spire Apartment, 127/1, Mysore Road-Bangalore-560039	**₹1,32,27,318.58 as on July 15, 2024 (together with further interest, cost, charges)**	**September 30, 2024**	**July 15, 2024**	1. Exclusive charge by way of hypothecation on the Borrower's entire current assets of the firm including stock and such other movables including book debts, bills, whether documentary or clean, both present & future. 2. Exclusive charge on asset purchased out of Term Loan.

If the said Obligator(s) shall fail to make payment to Bandhan Bank Limited as aforesaid, then Bandhan Bank Limited shall proceed against the above Secured Asset(s)/hypothecation of Movable Asset(s), under Section 13(4) of the said Act and the applicable Rules entirely at the risk of the said Borrower/Guarantor/Mortgagor/ Obligor(s) as to the costs and consequences.

The said Borrower/Guarantor/Mortgagor/Obligor(s) are prohibited under the said Act to transfer the aforesaid Secured Asset(s)/hypothecation of Movable Asset(s), whether by way of sale, lease or otherwise without the prior written consent of Bandhan Bank Limited. Any person who contravenes or abets contravention of the provisions of the Act or Rules made thereunder shall be liable for imprisonment and/or penalty as provided under the Act.

Date: April 21, 2025
Place: Bengaluru

Sd/-
Authorised Officer
Bandhan Bank Limited

EDITORIAL

We can live with lots of things, but we can't live without imagination, we can't live without hope

Ariel Dorfman

INDIAN EXPRESS IS NOT AN INDUSTRY. IT IS A MISSION.

— Ramnath Goenka

AUDITORS, INDEPENDENT DIRECTORS ARE FAILING INVESTORS

THE recent revelations surrounding Gensol Engineering highlight a troubling reality in corporate governance: the repeated failures of those charged with oversight and accountability. The case exposes the lapses of the company's promoters, who engaged in fund diversion, stock price manipulation, and fraudulent disclosures, and raises important questions about the effectiveness of regulatory frameworks and the role of independent directors and auditors. Warning signs about the company's mounting debt came last December, but the systemic issues remained hidden until the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) conducted a thorough probe prompted by a complaint in June. Unhappily, by the time the investigation exposed the financial mismanagement at Gensol, investors had already suffered huge losses, with valuations plummeting by nearly 90 percent. This situation underscores an important breach of trust. It is specifically troubling in the context of a listed startup that should have been a guidepost of innovation and transparency.

The subsequent resignation of three independent directors—with the only one expressing prior concern about the company's debt situation—illustrates a pattern of tame exit strategies among directors in the face of governance failures. Their lack of awareness regarding the broader fraudulent activities is alarming, suggesting a systemic complacency or a severe decoupling from their responsibilities. Typically viewed as the backbone of corporate governance, independent directors must be held to a higher standard and proactively safeguard stakeholder interests instead of merely resigning when challenges arise. The auditors, too, carry a heavy burden of responsibility. The justification often provided—asserting that statutory audits do not extend to in-depth analyses akin to forensic audits—rings hollow in light of such appalling oversights. A failure to detect financial irregularities demands an immediate re-evaluation of existing audit practices. It raises questions about the sufficiency of the auditing templates and the depth of scrutiny required to prevent corporate fraud.

This cycle of governance failures cannot continue unchallenged. Active measures are required to enhance accountability for auditors and independent directors. Regulatory bodies must implement stricter guidelines and consequences for lapses in governance to nurture an environment where high standards are not aspirational but rigorously enforced. Without palpable accountability, the ambition of sound corporate governance will remain a dream. Taking decisive action will be crucial now in restoring confidence among investors and ensuring the integrity of the financial markets.

UDDHAV, RAJ DUO CAN LIFT REGIONAL POLITICS

OTTO von Bismarck, Chancellor of the 19th-century German Reich, wrote, "Politics is the art of the possible, the attainable—the art of the next best." Over the years, this has come to mean the "art of the impossible". It can best be applied to the possible coming together in Maharashtra of the two estranged Thackeray cousins—Uddhav and Raj. They have sparred for over two decades to inherit the mantle of Shiv Sena founder Bal Thackeray. So, when Raj offered to set aside his differences for the greater good of Maharashtra during a podcast on Saturday, it came as a bombshell. Uddhav responded that he could work with Raj, provided the latter gave up his 'dubious' friends.

The swift back and forth between the two seemed calibrated according to a plan. The rapprochement moves appear logical. Both regional leaders have lost out heavily in Maharashtra's political roulette. "Misery acquaints a man with strange bedfellows," said William Shakespeare in *The Tempest*. Raj Thackeray left the Shiv Sena in 2006 after his uncle Bal Thackeray favoured his son, the understated Uddhav, as his successor rather than the more flamboyant nephew. Raj saw no future in a family-run party and formed his Maharashtra Navnirman Sena. However, the MNS was always a non-starter. In last November's assembly polls, Raj drew a blank, and even his son, Amit, lost.

For Uddhav, too, it is the end of the road. The Shiv Sena, once the senior partner in its alliance with the BJP and had ruled the state with three chief ministers, is today reduced to a rump. The breakaway Eknath Shinde camp is in government and continues to chip away at what remains of the UBT Sena. The cousins have learned the hard way that as an ally, the BJP will not allow a regional party to grow; allying with the Congress, on the other hand, dilutes the original Sena's Hindutva and 'sons-of-the-soil' ideology. Now, there is a window of opportunity: within the government, there are contradictions between Devendra Fadnavis and Eknath Shinde; outside, there are rumblings against the three-language formula and Hindi. Reviving the original Bal Thackeray call of 1966 for 'Marathi asmita' or self-respect could gain traction. The coming Mumbai municipal polls could be the test run for a new regional power play.

QUICK TAKE

KEEP THE LIVING ALIVE

WESTERN researchers seek massive funds to revive the dead. Emboldened by cloning Dolly the sheep decades ago, they aim higher: de-extinct the woolly mammoths and others that ceased to exist 4,000 years ago. Scientists have reportedly cloned the Pyrenean ibex and dire wolves. They aren't original—because their surviving DNA has degraded—but are clones, poor imitations at best. They are like Rip Van Winkles, and the new environment and food chains are alien to them. They'll find their descendants far more evolved, hardly recognisable. The practical option is reintroduction and conservation, like India has done with extinct cheetahs. Saving animals from extinction in the first place makes de-extinction redundant.

The principal weakness is debt. Tariffs and sanctions will raise price pressures and make it difficult to return to the ultra-low rates that made excessive indebtedness sustainable

NEW FINANCIAL CRISIS, LESSONS OF PAST UNLEARNT

SATYAJIT DAS

Former banker and author of *The Age of Stagnation*

A new financial crisis has begun. Maga-nomics' kaleidoscopic trade restrictions (it changes when you shake it), extortion of assets using military threats, 'reform' masking xenophobia, racism, vengeance and tyranny, and disregard of the law or agreements are likely to lead to a significant global slowdown. The financial system is fragile and weakened by serial crises. Scandals around technology investments, reminiscent of the end of the dot.com boom, are inevitable. Geo-strategic confusion is prevalent. Extreme weather events, pandemics and resource scarcity haven't gone away.

The central element is cash flow. The conversion of trade and activity will reduce incomes for households and businesses, decreasing consumption, which makes up around 50 to 70 percent of economic activity. Slowing demand reduced the need for investment. Government spending is unlikely to make up the shortfall due to an obsession with spending cuts, the constraint of rising budget deficits and high debt levels. Fear of wars means many countries must trade-off 'guns and butter'. Rentier income from investments will fall. Erratic decision-making and reciprocal economic stupidity will heighten uncertainty and sap consumer and business confidence.

Cash flows drive asset prices. The values of all financial assets ultimately depend on their future earnings. Actual or, in the case of nascent businesses, the likelihood of future earnings will decline, bringing down the prices of shares and real estate. Even with the recent buoyant economy, many businesses are not profitable or don't have positive cash flows. Others with high leverage can barely cover interest payments. Enthusiasm for speculative investments, like AI projects, which have generated few compelling revenue-generating products, is waning. The 'greater fool theory' that you can always sell at a higher price to someone was always financial charlatanism.

The principal weakness is debt, which there is no shortage of. Without nose-bleed borrowing levels, cash flow decreases are tolerable. If equity is a soft bed, debt is one of the nails. Tariffs and sanctions will raise price pressures and make it difficult to return to the ultra-low rates that made excessive indebtedness sustainable.

As incomes fall, households and businesses will struggle to meet obligations. Fiat money allows governments to continue the game by debasing the currency and purchasing power. Incapable of repaying borrowings, they will continue to issue new debt or create money, effectively paying interest and principal with new obligations they cannot honour.

SOURAV ROY

Despite the shocks not having flowed through as yet in their entirety, financial distress levels are rising. US business defaults hit a post-financial crisis high of 9.2 percent, with rates for highly leveraged private equity loans and junk bonds reaching the highest levels since the pandemic. The International Monetary Fund has warned of rising distress in commercial property. Delinquency rates on mortgage, auto, credit card and other consumer debt are rising. Where America leads, others will follow with lags and local differences.

A high proportion of borrowing is secured over financialised assets. Consumer borrowings are primarily mortgages collateralised by houses. With leverage mandatory to boost returns, significant amounts of debt are supported by real estate, shares, bonds, fund investments, and even artworks. Equity and commercial property prices are down. As values fall further, the loan-to-value ratios rise, triggering margin calls, making claims on available cash or requiring asset sales. This forces a reduction of debt. High leverage and multiple layers of debt increase sensitivity to asset prices. Investors, asset managers (who often invest in multiple vehicles themselves), and the underlying investment all have borrowings. Lack of income from many investments means asset-rich business owners and investors have borrowed against the value of holdings to fund consumption or other ventures. The amount of debt also increased financial 'innovation' such as pay-in-kind securities where the borrower can meet obligations by issuing new IOUs.

Increased price volatility flows into risk models, forcing further deleveraging by increasing the level of collateral needed or the frequency of margin reviews. This affects loans and derivative positions, which are largely collateralised. Higher margins and the falling value of lodged collateral can quickly become toxic.

A highly interconnected financial system is the main pathway through which contagion is transmitted. Potential losses are considerable. Global exposure to commercial real estate is around $21 trillion, primarily bank loans. Non-investment loans and bond outstandings are around $5-6 trillion. Equity margin loans in the US are around $1 trillion globally, probably 3 or 4 times that. Many now have diminishing margins of safety. Some have negative equity—the asset value is less than the loan. Global bank equity is around $6-7 trillion. Banks are leveraged 8 to 10 times higher if 'funky' hybrid capital and bail-in securities do not work as intended. Large losses would be systematically relevant, placing some at risk of insolvency and threatening financial stability.

Intermediation has moved into the shadow banking system (non-banks, including institutional investors, public and private funds, securitisation vehicles, family offices and HNWIs), which accounts for around 50 percent of global financial services assets. It has boosted the supply of capital, but the real equity supporting these investments remains opaque. It also creates complex chains of risk with legal and financial rights or obligations, enforceability, and claim priorities uncertain.

Actual losses or markdowns on assets because of lower prices will result in a contraction of credit. Given the reliance on debt-funded consumption and investment, this will exacerbate any economic slowdown in activity. The diminished supply of capital will affect the value of existing ventures, many of which do not have sufficient liquidity to reach the operational stage.

The process is one of downward spiralling feedback loops. Losses lead to lower leverage and credit contraction, which lead to economic retrenchment and credit contraction, which sets off a new round. Illiquid markets, due to falls in market makers, struggle to handle demand, worsening conditions.

The severity of the new crisis remains unknown. A real economic slowdown comparable to the 1930s is not inconceivable. Large financial excesses, particularly the disjunction between cash flow and prices, make severe adjustments likely. A complicating factor is institutional memory from the 2008 crisis is now scarce. It would not help in any case because, as Harry Potter's Lord Voldemort observed, "[Humans] never learn. Such a pity."

(Views are personal)

A TALE OF COURAGE AND FAITH FROM THE JATAKAS

RENUKA NARAYANAN

FAITHLINE

DID you know that the literal meaning of *Jataka* is 'birth stories'? A fact we know well is that the Jatakas are a body of Indian literature that mainly concerns the previous births of Gautama Buddha, in both human and animal form. Jataka stories were depicted on the railings and toranas of Buddhist stupas as a permanent record.

In passing, a *Torana* or *toran* is the decorative door hanging on a sacred archway in Hindu, Jain and Buddhist architecture. In temples and homes, it's a traditional adornment to welcome guests and mark auspicious occasions. The North, East and West make beautiful *toranas* of cloth and metal. I have grown up with *toranas* of fresh mango leaves strung over the front door for big festivals, and have seen many homes hang festive strings of marigolds as torans for Dipavali. When I saw the Sanchi stupa many years ago, I became aware that this is a very ancient custom found across India.

Here, I would like to share an observation about the depiction of gods and goddesses in India. The images and paintings came much later. They were first envisioned in words in ancient poetry. A striking example is the popular depiction of Mahalakshmi on a lotus, wearing gold, flanked by two celestial elephants sprinkling water on her. We know this image best today from the calendar art of Raja Ravi Varma. His original oil painting hangs in the Lakshmi Vilas Palace in Vadodara. I had the chance to see it last October when I went to Vadodara with some young friends for the fabulous garba that Gujarat resonates with during Navratri.

The fascinating fact is that Ravi Varma's painting, and all such earlier depictions in statues or on coins, are drawn directly from Lakshmi's description in the Sri Suktam, a paean to her in the Rig Veda, the oldest book known to the planet. So, the fact that *toranas* date back so far should surprise no one.

Carvings of Jatakas, too, are drawn from the Indian oral tradition. There are about 550 Jatakas, later compiled by an unknown Sri Lankan monk. Their purpose was to serve as parables and teachings to convey Buddhist morals and virtues. Content-wise, they relate stories of the Buddha's past lives, featuring him as a king, a god, a worker, or even an animal, including a snake, a rabbit, a swan, a fish, a quail, an ape, a woodpecker, a deer and an elephant. The tales span Sanskrit, Pali, Sinhalese, Burmese, Khmer, Thai, Japanese and English.

It seems unfair to talk about Jatakas without sharing one. I want to retell a favourite that some of you may remember from this column in November 2022.

PIXABAY

> There are about 550 Jatakas. Content-wise, they relate stories of the Buddha's past lives featuring him as a king, a god, a worker, or even an animal. Their purpose was to convey Buddhist morals and virtues. One touching story reveals how a baby quail's act of truth stopped a raging wildfire in its tracks

This very poignant Jataka goes that the Bodhisattva, or Buddha in a previous birth, was once born as a baby quail in ancient Magadha, in present-day Bihar. The baby quail's parents knew nothing of their region's history or that it was a holy land in those days where saints and sages walked and taught. The parent birds nested in a fine old lodhra tree (*Symplocus racemosa*), of which entire forests grew in ancient Magadha, as noted with enthusiasm in old texts.

Physicians regularly foraged the forest to gather precious lodhra bark for a range of Ayurvedic cures, for it was cherished as a *divya aushadi*, a divine medicine. But the little quail family remained undisturbed deep in the forest. The parent quails flew out every day to forage for their nestling, and life proceeded exactly as it ought.

One day, however, a sudden fire broke out in the forest. As the fire tore unstoppably through the trees, birds and animals fled in terror. As terrified as the rest, the baby quail's parents completely lost awareness of everything but the need to save their own lives and flew away, leaving their baby behind.

Hearing the terrible noise of crackling flames, falling branches and the cries of stampeding animals, the baby quail stretched its tiny body to peer out of its nest. When it saw the fire advancing purposefully, it understood the situation at once. "My poor parents have fled in fear, abandoning me to my fate," it thought. "If my wings were grown, I could fly. If I had legs, I could run away. But I can do neither, and so I must die."

In that moment of cold clarity, the baby quail found inspiration. "There are only two real powers in this world," it thought, "the power of truth and the might of goodness. I accept the truth that I am weak and alone. But I also feel that there must be so much merit stored in the world by the good deeds of good people. Let me call upon both forces."

Making an enormous mental effort to block out its fear, the baby quail began to switch off its sight, hearing, and other senses and concentrate its thoughts on total stillness. When it had withdrawn deep into its mind and could neither hear the noise outside nor feel the heat, it said, "Here am I alone, with wings that cannot fly. By this truth, and by the faith that I find in me in the power of goodness, I ask you, O fire, to please turn back without harming me or the others in this forest."

And, says the Jataka, the fire retreated sixteen paces and died out because of the baby quail's *satyakriya*, or act of truth.

(Views are personal)

(shebaba09@gmail.com)

MAILBAG

WRITE TO: letters@newindianexpress.com

Forge unity

Ref: *Changing algorithm of terror* (Apr 20). We must not blame religion but those who divide us and fuel communal tensions. We must ensure justice for all communities and promote equitable growth. This will help combat terrorism in the long term by removing the very conditions that allow it to thrive.
Aditya Kamble, Kalaburagi

IP theft

Ref: *When the fashion police go on patrol* (Apr 20). Protection of intellectual property is essential for any industry to thrive, including fashion. When designers sue for alleged idea theft, it raises questions about creativity, legality, and sustainability. The author makes a valid point that fashion designers should learn from the music and software industries.
Raju Kolluru, Kakinada

Improve relations

Ref: *Modi speaks to Musk on tech ties* (Apr 19). Prime Minister Narendra Modi's telephone conversation with Elon Musk has generated significant interest. From India's perspective, maintaining continuous engagement with the US government is crucial. Strong relations are a win-win for both nations, and it's reassuring that the first in-person trade talks are set to start.
R Sampath, Chennai

Surprise truce

Ref: *Putin springs a short Easter truce surprise* (Apr 20). Putin declared a surprise truce. Hours later, Zelenskyy claimed Russia launched drones targeting Ukraine. This highlights the trust deficit, which could complicate any third party's efforts to resolve the conflict. To maintain credibility, the Russian president must honour his word.
R S Narula, Patiala

Export powerhouse

Ref: *BrahMos export: Second battery of missile shipped out for Philippines* (Apr 20). It ushers in a new chapter in our defence exports as India and the Philippines signed a deal for the export of Brahmos cruise missiles, signalling India's role as a reliable defence partner. It's encouraging to see more countries lining up to procure this strategic asset.
Haribandhu Panigrahi, Tarbha

Veterans waiting

Ref: *Reserve posts in police for Agniveers, states told* (Apr 20). There was a proposal of 'Yudh Samman Yojana' a one-time lump-sum grant of `15 lakh for former emergency/short service commissioned officers. Many veterans, who are in their late eighties and nineties, have been waiting for this for long.
N A Joseph, Ettumanoor

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

Chairman of the Board: **Manoj Kumar Sonthalia** Editor: **Santwana Bhattacharya**

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POSTS OF THE DAY

Aaditya Thackeray @AUThackeray
The co-guardian minister is just playing a game! The question is — as usual, the officer was changed, but when will action be taken against the culprits?

Tejashwi Yadav @yadavtejashwi
The bitter and dark truth of liquor ban in Bihar. It has become a dark chapter in the lives of the poor and a source of black money for the government.

Yogi Adityanath @myogiadityanath
Giving further impetus to the prosperity journey of Gorakhpur, development works worth more than ₹700 crores have been approved for the public.

Rahul to deliver speech in Brown varsity, meet NRIs during US visit

PREETHA NAIR @ New Delhi

DURING his two-day visit to the US, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi will deliver a speech at the Brown University in Rhode Island and meet with the NRI community among others. Gandhi's visit comes ahead of the India- US trade pact talks in Washington on April 23.

The Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha was welcomed by Congress Overseas Chief Sam Pitroda in the US, who described Gandhi as a "voice for the youth, for democracy, and for a better future".

Later, in a post on X, Pitroda wrote, "Spent a productive morning with Rahul Gandhi. We discussed the evolving landscape of entrepreneurship, technology, inclusivity, and the need for ethical leadership. It's clear that the private sector has a major role to play in building a just, innovative, and inclusive India."

During his visit to Brown University, Gandhi will interact with faculty members and students. He is also expected to interact with members of the NRI community, office bearers, and members of the Indian Overseas Congress (IOC).

Earlier, Congress leader Pawan Khera had informed about Gandhi's visit to the US in a post on X, stating, " Former Congress President Rahul Gandhi will be visiting Brown University in Rhode Island, United States, on the 21st and 22nd of April. He will give a talk and interact with faculty members and students."

This marks Gandhi's second visit to the US in recent months. In September 2024, Rahul Gandhi was on a three-day visit to the US. During his visit, he travelled to Dallas, where he interacted with students and teachers at the University of Texas and addressed the members of the Indian diaspora.

Gandhi's previous visit had stirred a political storm after his remarks about scrapping the reservation system in India once the country becomes a "fair place."

MA Baby meets Kharge, says will bolster alliance fight against BJP

CPM gen secy vows to toe Yechury line on INDIA bloc

PREETHA NAIR @ New Delhi

THE CPI (M) will continue to play a pivotal role in the Opposition INDIA bloc and work closely with the Congress to take on the BJP at the Centre in the upcoming elections. According to sources, this message was conveyed in the meeting between the newly elected general secretary of the CPM MA Baby and Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge in the capital last week.

Sources say that Baby is expected to meet other INDIA bloc members, including Aam Aadmi Party leaders, soon.

While all eyes were on the new general secretary's approach to the Congress, sources said that Baby conveyed to Kharge that the party would continue with the approach of its late general secretary, Sitaram Yechury, to further strengthen the alliance to counter the BJP.

It was the first meeting between the Congress chief and Baby after the former Kerala minister was elected to the top post of CPM at the 24th party congress in Madurai in the first week of April.

The CPM was reportedly of the view that the INDIA bloc should get into election mode before the polls rather than waking up late. "The strategy and preparations should not be planned just before the elections. It should be done much in advance," said Baby.

The strategy and preparations should not be planned just before the elections. It should be done much in advance. The coordination committee meetings are not happening. The INDIA bloc meeting hasn't happened for a long time

MA Baby, CPM general secretary

He also expressed concern over the lack of coordination among the INDIA bloc constituents, the need for coherent strategies and the outlining of future courses of action. "The coordination committee meetings are not happening. The INDIA bloc meeting hasn't happened for a long time. There is not much coordination in Parliament also," he said.

A leader said the alliance in Kerala and West Bengal did not figure in the discussion. The situation will be the same as the CPM and the Congress compete with each other in Kerala and the TMC in Bengal.

Meanwhile, Baby called on Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin in Chennai on Sunday and deliberated on the alliance and the upcoming state assembly elections. Stalin asserted that the DMK's bond with CPM was firm.

"We met for around 15-20 minutes. It was a pure courtesy call. In Madurai, we had the 24th Party Congress which was very successful. The state is moving towards an assembly election within almost 12 months. So, we have to bring together the people of Tamil Nadu under the leadership of democratic, secular and progressive forces," he told reporters.

INSIDER TRACK

New B'desh envoy has his hands full

For Riaz Hamidullah, a veteran diplomat from the 1995 batch of the Bangladesh Foreign Service, arriving in New Delhi as the new High Commissioner was anything but a quiet debut. His appointment, although approved in February, was stalled until April amid uneasy bilateral ties. Then, within 48 hours after he touched down in Delhi, diplomatic waters got even choppier—India pulled the plug on a key transhipment facility that had allowed Bangladesh to route cargo through Indian ports and airports to third countries. (Shipments to Bhutan and Nepal still get a pass, though.) That apparently upset several steps taken by the interim government in Dhaka. Not exactly the welcome Hamidullah was hoping for. However, in true Bengali spirit, the High Commission didn't let a bumpy start dampen the festivities. To mark the Bengali New Year, the mission hosted a hearty lunch that gave guests a warm—and delicious—taste of home. The spread featured an impressive array of traditional bhortas, 'kathaler echor' (raw jackfruit curry), and a dedicated 'pitha' corner serving sweet treats that ensured none left without a smile (or a sugar rush). With a diplomatic balancing act ahead and a calendar full of engagements, the new envoy has already shown he's ready to handle policy and pithas with equal flair.

3 IAS officers join their spouse cadres

Marriage is the easiest reason for inter-cadre transfer of IAS officers, but never in the past did the government accept more than one such request on a single day. Friday of last week was one such day that the Department of Personnel & Training (DoPT) issued an order transferring three IAS officers to the respective cadres of their spouses. The officers include 2021-batch IAS officer Ashish Kumar Mishra, 2022-batch IAS officer Vaishali R, and 2024-batch IAS officer Chhaya Singh. Mishra, originally allocated to Uttarakhand cadre, has been re-allocated to Rajasthan cadre to which his wife, 2022-batch IAS officer Anshu Priya, belongs. Similarly, Gujarat cadre IAS officer Vaishali R has also been transferred to her IAS husband Pawar Swapnil Jagannath's Andhra Pradesh cadre. Madhya Pradesh cadre IAS officer Chhaya Singh has her cadre re-allocated, too, as she is married to the 2022-batch IAS officer of the Rajasthan cadre.

Cabinet reshuffle: Prayer and Tweets

With whispers of a cabinet reshuffle growing louder, divine intervention seems to trend higher than anything else. Several ministers, facing uncertainty over their portfolios, are reportedly turning to temples, spiritual gurus—and 'X'—to keep their seats warm. "These days, we're praying to God more," joked a Minister of State, half in jest, when cornered by curious journalists. Sources say the reshuffle, expected sometime between late May and June, could shake up as many as seven to eight ministries. And while the Prime Minister's choices remain tightly guarded, the ripple effect is clearly felt. Ministers, once quiet on social media, are now suddenly out in full digital force—posting achievements, celebrating schemes, and liking just the right tweets. Coincidence? Hardly. Meanwhile, some MPs hoping to snag a spot in the cabinet have taken the spiritual route too. From temple hopping to astro-consultations, it has been a season of silent prayers and subtle moves. A Lok Sabha MP even made a high-profile visit to a spiritual leader in his home state, sparking speculation about divine endorsements for political elevation. Only time will tell if blessing or branding makes the cut.

IB chief may get 1-yr extension

Incumbent Intelligence Bureau (IB) chief Tapan Kumar Deka may get another tenure extension of a year, as the government intends to keep him in the office for reasons including the critical role he is playing in troubled Manipur and also the lack of adequately experienced senior officers in the country's internal spy agency. Deka, an IPS officer of the Himachal Pradesh cadre from the 1988 batch and a native of Assam, is considered an expert in matters relating to the North East. His extended tenure ends in June this year, but sources said he will likely get an extension.

Currently, there are no serving IB officers from the 1989-1992 IPS batches—the pool from which the government could typically consider selecting. Thus, it has developed cold feet about appointing any officer who belongs to a batch later than 1992. The IB has a tradition of getting its chief by promotion from within.

WAQF ACT

Dubey must face action over CJI remarks: Cong...

PREETHA NAIR @ New Delhi

A day after BJP MP **Nishikant Dubey** made controversial remarks against the Chief Justice of India (CJI) and the Supreme Court, Congress on Sunday sought stringent action against him for 'trying to intimidate the judiciary'.

Congress General Secretary KC Venugopal said that the Lok Sabha Speaker should take action against Dubey as it was a case of contempt of court and violation of the Constitution.

"A serious allegation has been made by a Member of Parliament against the Chief Justice of India. The SC should also take suo moto action against him," he said.

"They are trying to threaten the judiciary..." he added. The leader also said that the BJP's action of distancing itself from Dubey's comments is an eyewash. "This is not the first time Dubey is making such comments. He had made similar comments in his Parliament speeches. But the BJP never reined in him," he said. "Such public remarks against the judiciary will impact the democracy of our country," he said.

Congress leader Jairam Ramesh also questioned the BJP on inaction against the MPs. "These MPs are repeat offenders. The outgoing BJP President's clarification is nothing but damage control. It will fool nobody. They are very often used by G2 to attack communities, institutions, and individuals," he said.

...BJP MP's barb on former CEC sparks fresh row

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR @ New Delhi

AFTER making a defamatory statement against the Supreme Court, BJP MP Nishikant Dubey launched a fresh attack on Sunday, this time against former Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) **SY Quraishi**, referring to him as a "Muslim Commissioner".

While the BJP distanced itself from Dubey's objectionable remark on the top court, the party remained silent on his subsequent comments about the former CEC. The BJP leader referred to him not as an "election commissioner" but as a "Muslim commissioner".

His remarks followed Quraishi's criticism of the Waqf Act, in which he described it as government's "sinister and evil plan to grab Muslim lands" in a post on his 'X' handle.

Quraishi, who previously served as the CEC of India, frequently comments on contemporary issues. In his post dated April 17, Quraishi wrote: "Waqf Act is undoubtedly a blatantly sinister evil plan of the govt to grab Muslim lands. I'm sure SC will call it out. Misinformation by the mischievous propaganda machine has done its job well."

However, Dubey chose to respond only on Sunday. Tagging Quraishi's post, he wrote: "You were not an election commissioner, you were a Muslim commissioner. The maximum numbers of Bangladeshi infiltrators were made voters in Santhal Pargana in Jharkhand during your tenure."

Ganga, Brahmaputra basins hit 23-year low in snow persistence: Data

JITENDRA CHOUBEY @ New Delhi

THE Ganga and Brahmaputra basins are witnessing a record low in snow persistence in the past 23 years, raising concerns about an impending water crisis that could affect the over-650-million people dependent on the snow-fed river systems. As per latest data, this decline in snow persistence has been consistently observed for three consecutive years.

Seasonal snowmelt is crucial for water availability in the vast stretches drained by the two perennial rivers. It contributes to around 23% of the annual flow, especially in early summer, and nourishes rivers for various purposes including agriculture and hydropower.

According to the latest Snow Update Report of the Hindu Kush Himalaya region, snow persistence – the duration that snow remains on the ground – in the Ganga basin this year has been 24.1% below normal, the lowest in past 23 years.

The current snowmelt deficit may lead to reduced river flow in early summer. In contrast, the basin recorded its highest snow persistence in 2015, when it stood at 30.2% above normal.

The basin had a deficit of 13.6% and 20.4% snow persistence in November 2023 and March 2024 respectively. This year, the deficit has increased to 24.1%. In the past six years, four seasons witnessed a deficit in snow persistence. In 2020 and 2022, the Ganga basin witnessed a snow surplus, 27% and 26.4% above normal respectively.

The consistent decline of snow for the past three years has put the lives of India's 43% population who reside in the Ganga basin at risk.

Similarly, the Brahmaputra basin has also recorded a consitent dip in snow persistence which fell to its lowest–27.9% below normal–in 2025. The basin had recorded a deficit of 10.7% and 15.7% in snow persistence in November 2023 and March 2024, respectively.

A new click into the beneficiary module: Citizen access to Poshan Tracker

PROFESSOR LINDSAY JAACKS
Professor of Global Health & Nutrition at the University of Edinburgh

DR. ANANYA AWASTHI
Director of Anuvaad, an accelerator for science translation on health and nutrition

FOR THE FIRST TIME, CITIZENS ELIGIBLE FOR ACCESSING ANGANWADI SERVICES ACROSS THE NETWORK OF 1.3 MILLION ANGANWADI CENTRES CAN SELF-REGISTER BY LOGGING INTO THE APP POSHAN TRACKER - APPS ON GOOGLE PLAY OR THE WEBSITE POSHAN TRACKER TO TRACK THEIR SERVICE DATA, INCLUDING GROWTH MONITORING AND HOT COOKED MEALS. THIS LEAP FROM A GOVERNMENT-FACING MONITORING TOOL TO A CITIZEN-FACING PLATFORM REFLECTS A LARGER SHIFT TOWARD DEMAND-DRIVEN, DATA-INFORMED NUTRITION GOVERNANCE.

AS India marks the 7th Poshan Pakhwada this April, a key focus is to raise awareness about the newly launched Beneficiary Module of the Poshan Tracker. This milestone ushers in a new phase of community empowerment, placing actionable nutrition data directly in the hands of citizens.

Launched under the national nutrition policy framework, aka Poshan 2.0 guidelines, this new feature addresses a long-recognised challenge: weak community ownership of Anganwadi activities, which has often limited the effectiveness of nutrition interventions nationwide. The Poshan Tracker, a mobile-based application already used by every Anganwadi worker to provide real-time data on the delivery of nutrition and childcare services, now extends its reach to the very people it aims to serve.

For the first time, citizens eligible for accessing Anganwadi services across the network of 1.3 million Anganwadi centres can self-register by logging into the app Poshan Tracker - apps on Google Play or the website Poshan Tracker to track their service data, including growth monitoring, take-home rations, and hot cooked meals. This leap from a government-facing monitoring tool to a citizen-facing platform reflects a larger shift toward demand-driven, data-informed nutrition governance.

This specialised module enables you to locate the Anganwadi centre closest to your location and facilitates self-registration for pregnant or lactating women, children up to age 6, and adolescent girls. Women beneficiaries can access this module to monitor their service history, including pregnancy trimesters and anaemia status, record weight gain during pregnancy, and track the receipt of take-home rations (THR) and hot-cooked meals (HCM). Parents and caregivers can also use the app to monitor their child's height and weight actively, check if they are meeting growth milestones, and verify eligibility for THR and HCM. One of the most groundbreaking features is that it empowers the beneficiaries to seek redressal for grievances related to inadequate receipt of Anganwadi services. For instance, a lactating mother, her husband, or any family member can now report issues such as not receiving THR or problems with their local Anganwadi centre, such as irregular openings or lack of infrastructure.

The Beneficiary Module of the Poshan Tracker establishes a direct connection with the beneficiaries it serves. Therefore, it opens up several promising pathways for transforming the Poshan Tracker into a benchmark for interactive, citizen-centric, digitised public health and nutrition systems. The module should consider four promising future directions.

Foremost, leveraging India's extensive smartphone usage, the module could introduce features such as scheduling appointments at the nearest Anganwadi centre or arranging home visits by Anganwadi workers.

Second, by sending push notifications to beneficiaries on upcoming community-based events, the Beneficiary Module could serve as a platform for citizen engagement with health and nutrition services. This could increase beneficiary participation in community activities like Vazan Diwas, where all children in a village are weighed monthly, the celebration of nutrition events like Annaprashan, which marks the introduction of solid foods to young children and providing information on the venues and dates for Village Health Sanitation Nutrition Days.

Third, creating an in-built feedback system within Poshan Tracker would allow beneficiaries to evaluate the quality of Anganwadi services received, including those on growth monitoring, delivery of food rations, home visits and referral to health services for children suffering from acute malnutrition. This enhancement could transform the Poshan Tracker into a platform that can allow for a social audit of service delivery, effectively addressing the needs and demands of the target beneficiaries.

Finally, exploring the integration of the Beneficiary interface with data from the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare on Reproductive and Child Health Services, Vaccination Status, and Health services can enable all eligible mothers and children to track their health and nutrition status comprehensively at one platform.

The introduction of the Beneficiary Module in the Poshan Tracker thus marks a significant advancement in India's use of technology to enhance the delivery of Poshan and Anganwadi services. This module simplifies registration and service access for millions of beneficiaries. It institutionalises a mechanism for citizen-led accountability of Anganwadi services, much in line with GOI's mandate for promoting "Jan Bhagidari" or Community Ownership of government programs. By incorporating features like appointment scheduling and real-time service tracking, the Poshan Tracker is poised to bridge the significant gap between policy intent and on-the-ground execution.

Moreover, by integrating feedback systems and other data platforms, this tool enhances the responsiveness of Anganwadi services to communities' real needs, paving the way for a robust, transparent, and participatory nutrition and health ecosystem. The challenge now lies in ensuring these digital advances translate into tangible improvements in the health and nutrition outcomes of India's most vulnerable populations. Poshan Tracker's innovative approach could serve as a model for other nations striving to meet their public health goals through technology and community engagement.

RAIDS ON

The Anti-Corruption Bureau in Rajasthan on Sunday raided several locations linked to officer Ashok Kumar Jangid, accused of amassing assets worth more than ₹11.5 crore since his appointment in government service.

2 DEAD IN BIKE ACCIDENT IN UP's BALRAMPUR DISTRICT

INDIA	Max	Min		Max	Min
Ahmedabad	39	25	Mumbai	32	27
Bhopal	39	23	Panaji	36	29
Jaipur	38	26	Patna	37	27
Amritsar	37	19	Lucknow	40	25
Chennai	33	28	Port Blair	30	27
Kolkata	34	28	Imphal	27	21
Srinagar	17	07	Chandigarh	38	21

3 killed as rain wreaks havoc in J&K

Flash floods cause extensive damage to a portion of Srinagar-Jammu highway, traffic hit

FAYAZ WANI @ Srinagar

INCESSANT rains and cloudburst triggered flash floods and landslides in Jammu and Kashmir's Ramban district on Sunday, leaving three people, including two brothers, dead while over 100 have been rescued and shifted to safer places.

The flash floods caused extensive damage to a portion of Srinagar-Jammu highway forcing authorities to close vehicular movement on the road link connecting Srinagar with the rest of the country.

J&K has been witnessing heavy rains since Friday evening. Officials said a cloudburst struck the Seribagna village of Ramban, resulting in the deaths of three persons, including brothers Aqib Ahmad and Mohammad Saqib. The rescue operation in the village was continuing, they said.

The incessant rains triggered landslides and mudslides at dozen places between Nashri and Banihal along the strategic Jammu-Srinagar Highway. Due to landslides, mudslides and flash floods a portion of the road at Panthyal was washed away, forcing the closure of Srinagar-Jammu national highway. Many vehicles were caught in mudslides while dozens of houses suffered damage due to flash floods in Ramban.

A district official said, "Authorities have launched a rescue operation and shifted over 100 persons from the affected areas to safer places." He said personnel of Police, SDRF, Civil QRTs, ARMY and other departments and agencies, besides volunteers from local NGOs, are engaged in rescue and restoration operations.

The administration has advised the public to stay alert and watch surroundings and nullahs, and follow advisories. Many areas in Ramban were reeling under darkness as the electricity grid suffered damage due to to rains and flash floods. The authorities have closed all educational institutions in the district for Monday.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah said, "Authorities are in touch with the local administration to ensure immediate rescue efforts wherever needed."

Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and Chief Minister Omar Abdullah expressed grief over the loss of three lives due to flash floods triggered by incessant rain in Ramban district while Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary rushed to the affected areas to take stock of the situation. National Conference president Farooq Abdullah said his party's government would request the Centre for financial assistance to provide adequate relief to the families affected.

"Extremely anguished by the tragic landslide and flash flood in Ramban, which have caused considerable damage to life and property. My thoughts are with the affected families in this difficult hour. We are in touch with the local administration to ensure immediate rescue efforts wherever needed. Later today, I will be reviewing restoration, relief, and repair plans," read an X post by the Chief Minister's Office. It further said, "For now, the focus remains on managing the situation on the ground. Citizens are advised to follow travel advisories and avoid non-essential movement in vulnerable areas."

In a separate rain-related incident, two people were killed due to lightning at villages Jameri Dhansal and Arnas in Reasi district late on Saturday. The deceased were identified as Mohamamd Rashid, 52, and Shahbaz Begum, 32. Parts of Jammu and Kashmir, including Rajouri, experienced severe wind storm on Saturday evening. About 100 houses were damaged and roofs of some buildings uprooted by the severe windstorm.

In the Valley's Shopian district, the apple orchards have suffered heavy damages due to severe hailstorm and heavy rainfall, incurring heavy losses to the apple growers. Due to continuing snowfall, the water level in Jehlum and other water bodies in Kashmir has increased.

Debris after a rain-triggered landslide hits Ramban district on Sunday | PTI

Two killed due to lightning in Reasi district

Meanwhile, in a separate rain-related incident, two people were killed due to lightning at villages Jameri Dhansal and Arnas in Reasi district late on Saturday. The deceased were identified as Mohamamd Rashid, 52, and Shahbaz Begum, 32. Parts of Jammu and Kashmir, including Rajouri, experienced severe wind storm on Saturday evening. About 100 houses were damaged and roofs uprooted by the severe windstorm.

Double murder accused in Bengal Waqf violence held

SULAGNA SENGUPTA @ Kolkata

WEST BENGAL Police on Sunday arrested one of the prime accused in the murder of a man and his son in violence-hit Murshidabad district. This marks the fourth arrest in connection with the killings at Jafrabad village in Shamsherganj, amid communal unrests earlier this month during protests over amendments to the Waqf Act.

The arrested person, identified as Ziaul Sheikh, resident of neighbouring Sulitala Purbapara, had been absconding since April 12. A joint operation by the WB Police Special Task Force and Special Investigating Team tracked him down to Chopra in Uttar Dinajpur district on Saturday.

"This person is one of the prime accused who had conspired and instigated a mob that vandalised the victims' residence and killed Haragobindo Das and his son Chandan Das on April 12," a senior official said, adding that the authorities have recovered CCTV footage and mobile tower records confirming Sheikh's presence at the crime scene.

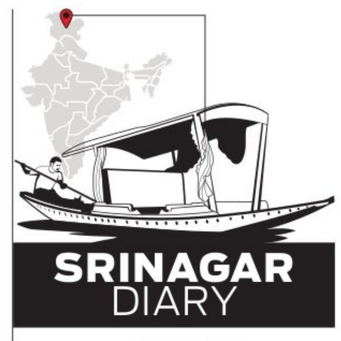
Earlier, police arrested three others – Kalu Nadar, Dildar, and Inzmam Ul Haque – in connection with the killings.

Kalu was arrested from neighbouring Birbhum district, while his brother Dildar was held from areas adjoining the Bangladesh border under Suti police station in Murshidabad. The third accused was apprehended from neighbouring Suripara village.

Violence erupted on April 11 during protests against the Waqf (Amendment) Act, leaving three dead and hundreds displaced. Police have registered over 100 FIRs related to the Murshidabad violence, with 276 people arrested so far, the official said.

Meanwhile, in an open letter made public on Saturday night, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee urged people to maintain peace, while alleging that the BJP and RSS were using the backdrop of violence to further provoke communal divide.

In a sharp rebuttal to Banerjee's claim, BJP West Bengal co-incharge Amit Malviya on Sunday demanded the CM's resignation for the alleged failure of her administration to prevent the violence, also accusing her of a "vicious false campaign" against the BJP.



SRINAGAR DIARY

FAYAZ WANI
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in Jammu and Kashmir
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Cooperation with Centre key to J&K progress: CM

Over six months after taking over as the first elected Chief Minister of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, Omar Abdullah has said the progress and development of J&K lies in cooperation between its government and the Centre. The CM made the observation while jointly inaugurating a multi-storeyed municipal parking complex in Kathua with BJP leader and Union Minister of State Jitendra Singh. His statement assumes significance in view of his ongoing conflict with J&K Lt Governor Manoj Sinha over the latter's decision to transfer as many as 48 J&K Administrative Service officers without taking Abdullah into confidence.

1st B'wood film premiere held in Srinagar in 38 yrs

A special screening of Emraan Hashmi's upcoming film 'Ground Zero' was held for BSF Jawans at the Inox theatre in Srinagar on Friday evening. It marked the first time in 38 years that the premiere of a Bollywood movie was held in Srinagar. The film chronicles the story of BSF officer Narendra Nath Dhar Dubey, who led the operation to track the mastermind behind 2001 militant attacks on the Parliament and the Akshardham Temple. Hashmi — who portrays the lead role in the film — mused, "It marks the beginning of a renewed cinematic journey in Kashmir." The Emraan Hashmi starrer will hit the screens on April 25.

Police launch QR code-based feedback

In order to promote transparency, accountability and strengthening public trust, the Srinagar Police has launched a QR code-based feedback management system, 'BHAROSA QR', to collect real-time inputs from the public regarding the services rendered by the cops. The citizen-friendly initiative allows individuals to scan QR codes displayed at police stations or offices and busy public places, such as bus stops and markets. Once scanned, the user is redirected to a secure page where they can share their experiences, suggestions, and concerns related to police responsiveness and the overall performance. The process is simple and takes less than a minute.

ASSAM

Cracks in Oppn bloc ahead of panchayat polls

PRASANTA MAZUMDAR @ Guwahati

THE two key Opposition parties in Assam — the Congress and the Raijor Dal — have been at daggers drawn. Though the two parties had earlier planned to contest the upcoming panchayat polls together to defeat the ruling BJP, their differences could throw a spanner in the works.

Raijor Dal chief and Sibsagar MLA Akhil Gogoi recently sparked a row by allegedly describing Congress MP Gaurav Gogoi and Congress Legislature Party (CLP) leader Debabrata Saikia as "agents" of the saffron party.

Assam Pradesh Congress Committee vice-president Mehdi Alam Bora reacted sharply to Akhil's comment on Sunday and said that such statements don't bode well for the Opposition alliance. "Gaurav has always been the voice of the people in Parliament. Akhil's remark could derail the progress of the Opposition grouping," Bora said.

"Akhil also said he doubts if Debabrata is in the BJP or Congress. If he doubts the integrity of the CLP leader, why is he even seeking an alliance with Congress?" Bora mused, adding, "Akhil should stop making such remarks."

Nitish switches sides for 'kursi', ties with BJP not for Bihar progress: Kharge

RAMASHANKAR @ Patna

CONGRESS president Mallikarjun Kharge on Sunday slammed the alliance between the ruling JD(U) and the BJP in Bihar as "opportunistic" and alleged that Chief Minister Nitish Kumar switches sides only for the sake of 'kursi' (power).

Addressing 'Jai Bapu, Jai Bhim, Jai Samvidhan' rally in Bihar's Buxar district, Kharge alleged that the NDA government has no commitment to the development of Bihar. "They have entered into an alliance just to remain in power. They have nothing to do with Bihar's development," he said.

The Congress MP also launched a scathing attack on Prime Minister Modi and the BJP leadership over the amendment to the Waqf law, alleging the move was intended to polarise voters during the upcoming elections in state. "The have nothing to do with real issues of people. They want to divide the society for political gains," he alleged.

Recalling the poll promises made by Prime Minister Modi in 2015 at a rally in Bhojpur, Kharge questioned, "What happened to the special package of ₹1.25 crore that he (Modi) had announced for Bihar? I think you people might have benefitted from the special package?"

Taking a dig at the PM over unfulfilled poll promises, the Congress chief dubbed the former 'a factory of lies'.

Coming down heavily on Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, Kharge said the JD(U) supremo has switched sides just for the 'kursi' (Chief Minister's chair). He joined hands with the ideology that had killed father of the nation Mahatma Gandhi, he said.

Calling Nitish an opportunist, the Congress MP said he had jumped the ship to join the Mahagathbandhan, but when he realised the BJP stood a fair chance of returning to power, he switched sides. "This shows Nitish Kumar's manoeuvering for power," Kharge said.

The grand old party sounded the poll bugle in BIhar with the party president's maiden rally in UP-adjoining Buxar district. Kharge urged people to ensure defeat of the NDA saying, "They are trying to damage the democratic fabric for political reasons. But we will not allow it."

Thackeray cousins' Maha reunion buzz worries Shinde; BJP cautious

SUDHIR SURYAWANSHI @ Mumbai

THE ongoing discussions about a possible reconciliation between Uddhav Thackeray and Raj Thackeray have seemingly rattled Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, while the BJP maintains a cautious stand.

In response to the development, Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis said, "It is their decision, so we welcome it. The media has exaggerated the issue, giving it more attention than required. The media is reading too much between the lines. We should wait and watch."

He added that he would refrain from commenting further since the matter is between two cousins and does not involve him. "One brother (Raj Thackeray) is extending an offer while the other (Uddhav Thackeray) is accepting it, albeit with riders. They are responding to each other, and I have no role to play," he stated.

When asked about the issue, a visibly upset Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde refused to comment, saying that the media should focus on his work rather than seeking his comment on the reunion of two brothers.

Meanwhile, Mumbai BJP president and minister Ashish Shelar said, "If the two want to reunite, what do I say? The reunion is their personal decision."

Offering a word of caution, Shiv Sena leader Ramdas Kadam said that if both of them come together, Uddhav will never allow Raj to grow politically. He said they tried several times earlier, but Uddhav Thackeray never responded positively. "It was our mistake that we accepted Uddhav Thackeray's leadership. Had Raj been the president, today there would be just two parties, Shiv Sena and MNS," he said.

NCP SP Lok Sabha MP Supriya Sule welcomed the decision, stating that if Balasaheb Thackeray were alive, he would have been pleased with this development.

"Thackeray and Pawar's family have had close relationship for several decades. We share a very close bond. If both the brothers are really coming together, it is excellent news for the Marathi community and Maharashtra as a whole because it is time to unite and fight for the state," she said.

The buzz about the rapprochement started after Raj Thackeray said in a podcast interview that he had no issues working with Uddhav in the undivided Shiv Sena.

It is their decision, so we welcome it. The media has exaggerated the issue, giving it more attention than required. The media is reading too much between the lines. We should wait and watch.

Devendra Fadnavis, Maharashtra Chief Minister

Punjab outsources technical work of power corp amid staff shortage

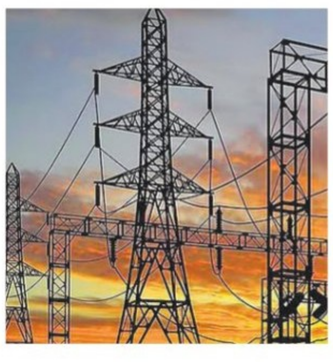
HARPREET BAJWA @ Chandigarh

IN a first, Punjab State Power Corporation Limited (PSPCL) has initiated a pilot project to outsource the complete technical work of two subdivisions in each of its five zones. The move is aimed at expediting the redressal of complaints and enhancing operational efficiency.

The decision comes shortly after the corporation issued advertisements for the recruitment of regular linemen and junior engineers, sparking concerns about its staffing policy and internal coordination.

As part of the project, running, maintenance, complaint handling and shutdown management of 11 KV feeders supplying power to consumers will be outsourced.

Sources reveal that the Kharar and Lalru divisions in the South Zone have already been selected for the launch of this pilot project. Lalru serves as an industrial subdivision, while Kharar is a densely populated area.



Each division has four subdivisions with about 10 to 15 Category 1 feeders each. While billing and meter reading were already outsourced, the new move would extend outsourcing to nearly all technical services.

An official has said that while Lalru and Kharar are confirmed to be included in the project, a final decision on other subdivisions is yet to be taken.

Officials from the Kharar and Lalru divisions have been directed to submit data on outstanding dues, especially those from defaulters owing between ₹50,000 and ₹1 lakh. The consultant has also requested a list of 264 priority feeders that need upgrades, in addition to those where power cuts last more than an hour. The pilot project is expected to be discussed at length by the PSPCL Director of Distribution on Monday.

This initiative was proposed by the Punjab Development Commission (PDC), an independent action-based think tank established by the AAP-led Punjab government in September 2023, to help realise the vision of 'Rangla Punjab'.

IN THE WILD

Lost baby jumbo falls into well in J'khand, rescued

MUKESH RANJAN @ Ranchi

A baby elephant that fell into a well in Jharkhand's Latehar district was rescued by forest officials after over five hours of hard work, forest officials said.

Ranger Nandkumar Mahato said, "The elephant fell into the nearly dry well while roaming around in Hebna village in search of food. It was rescued by the forest department late on Saturday night by digging a way of about 50 feet long from the base of the well through a JCB machine." The elephant was not hurt and it went safely towards the forests, he said.

Locals said the elephant was separated from its herd and roaming around in the forests of Balumath and Chandwa. "After the elephant, trapped in the well, started shouting for help, villagers gathered near the well and informed forest officials," said a villager.

Latehar DFO Pravesh Aggarwal said that after getting the information, a team of forest officials was immediately sent to the spot. "The team made a path through JCB and took the baby elephant out of the well safely," said the DFO.

The jumbo was rescued on Saturday by digging a way of about 50 feet from the base of the well.

Nandkumar Mahato, Ranger

Separated from herd

Locals said the elephant was separated from its herd and roaming around in the forests of Balumath and Chandwa.

MP to use AI alert to curb encroachments in forests

ANURAAG SINGH @ Bhopal

MADHYA Pradesh is set to use an artificial intelligence (AI)-powered real-time alert system for meticulously detecting and alerting about forest encroachment, illegal land use changes and environmental degradation.

The soon-to-be launched system empowers forest departments to detect encroachments, illegal land-use changes, and environmental degradation within days.

Initiated by DFO-Guna Akshay Rathore, the idea has been brought to the actualization stage under the supervision of top officers of the MP state forest department, including head of state's forest force (HoFF) Aseem Shrivastava and additional principal chief conservator of forests BS Annigery.

The AI powered system is an Indian technology for forests built on Google earth engine. The system processes multi-temporal satellite datasets (Dynamic World v1, Sentinel-1 & Sentinel-2) and identifies even subtle land cover changes using a custom machine learning pipeline. Changes are flagged and pushed to a mobile app used by field staff.

It's the first time we've integrated satellite, AI and field feedback into a loop that improves over time.

Akshay Rathore, DFO Guna

Flags land changes

The new system generates alerts, flags significant changes in croplands, bare land, built-up, etc.

31st attempt for famed guide Kami Rita to climb Mount Everest

Putin pretends to honour ceasefire, says Zelenskyy

UKRAINIAN FORCES REPORTED 59 SHELLINGS, 5 ASSAULTS, AND DRONE STRIKES

KYIV

UKRAINIAN President Volodymyr Zelenskyy accused Russia on Sunday of creating a false appearance of honouring an Easter ceasefire, saying Moscow continued to launch attacks after Russian President Vladimir Putin announced a unilateral temporary truce.

"As of Easter morning, we can say that the Russian army is trying to create a general impression of a ceasefire, but in some places, it does not abandon individual attempts to advance and inflict losses on Ukraine," Zelenskyy said in a post on X. Despite Putin's declaration of an Easter ceasefire on Saturday, Zelenskyy said Sunday morning that Ukrainian forces had recorded 59 instances of Russian shelling and five assaults by units along the front line, as well as dozens of drone strikes.

In a later update, Zelenskyy said that despite Ukraine declaring a symmetrical approach to Russian actions, there had been an increase in Russian shelling and drone attacks since 10 a.m (0700 GMT). He said, however, that it was "a good thing, at least, that there were no air raid sirens."

"In practice, either Putin does not have full control over his army, or the situation proves that in Russia, they have no intention of making a genuine move toward ending the war, and are only interested in favorable PR coverage," he wrote. Zelenskyy said that Russia must fully adhere to the ceasefire conditions and reiterated Ukraine's offer to extend the truce for 30 days, starting midnight Sunday. He said the proposal "remains on the table" and added: "We will act in accordance with the actual situation on the ground."

Zelenskyy said Saturday night that some areas were quieter since the ceasefire was announced, which he claimed showed Putin to be the "true cause" of the war. "As soon as Putin gave an order to scale back the attacks, the intensity of strikes and killings dropped...," he wrote on X.

Russia's Defense Ministry said Sunday that Ukrainian forces launched overnight attacks in the Donetsk region despite the ceasefire, and had sent 48 drones into Russian territory. According to the ministry, there were "dead and wounded among the civilian population," without giving details. It claimed Russian troops had strictly observed the ceasefire. Russia-installed officials in the partially occupied Ukrainian region of Kherson also said that Ukrainian forces continued their attacks. *FP*

Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelensky posing at the occasion of Easter celebrations, in Kyiv| AFP

Ceasefire from 6 pm Saturday to Sunday nigh

Kremlin said the ceasefire will last from 6 pm Moscow time (1500 GMT) on Saturday to midnight (2100 GMT) following Easter Sunday. Putin offered no details on how the ceasefire would be monitored or whether it would cover airstrikes or ongoing ground battles that rage around the clock.

People hold signs critical of President Donald Trump while watching a parade for the 250th anniversary of the Battle of Lexington and Concord | AFP

New wave of anti-Trump stir hits US cities

NEW YORK

THOUSANDS of protesters rallied Saturday in New York, Washington and other cities across the United States for a second major round of demonstrations against Donald Trump and his hard-line policies.

In New York, people gathered outside the city's main library carrying signs targeting the US president with slogans like "No Kings in America" and "Resist Tyranny." Many took aim at Trump's deportations of undocumented migrants, chanting "No ICE, no fear, immigrants are welcome here," a reference to the role of the Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency in rounding up migrants. In Washington, protesters voiced concern that Trump was threatening long-respected constitutional norms, including the right to due process.

The administration is carrying out "a direct assault on the idea of the rule of law and the idea that the government should be restrained from abusing the people who live here in the United States," Benjamin Douglas, 41, told AFP outside the White House. Wearing a keffiyeh and carrying a sign calling for the freeing of Mahmoud Khalil, a pro-Palestinian student protester arrested last month, Douglas said individuals were being singled out as "test cases to rile up xenophobia and erode long-standing legal protections." "We are in a great danger," said 73-year-old New York protester Kathy Valy, the daughter of Holocaust survivors, adding that their stories of how Nazi leader Adolf Hitler rose to power "are what's happening here." "The one thing is that Trump is a lot more stupid than Hitler or than the other fascists," she said. "He's being played... and his own team is divided." Trump's health chief Robert F Kennedy Jr, a noted vaccine skeptic, spent decades falsely linking the measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) jab to autism. In deeply conservative Texas, the coastal city of Galveston saw a small gathering of anti-Trump demonstrators. On the West Coast, several hundred people gathered on a beach in San Francisco to spell out the words "impeach-remove," the San Francisco Chronicle reported. *AFP*

EXPRESS READ

Trump slams judges in deportation row

Washington: The clash over Trump's migrant deportations escalated after the Supreme Court blocked his use of a centuries-old law to expel Venezuelans without due process. Trump slammed "weak" judges, while Justice Alito called the ruling "legally questionable." Democrats and rights groups accused Trump of defying court orders, with Senator Klobuchar warning the US is edging closer to a constitutional crisis over his aggressive deportation tactics. AFP

BANGALORE DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
Office of the Executive Engineer, HPD-1 Division
Bangalore Development Authority, Bangalore.

No: BDA/EE/HPD-1/TEN/T-19/2025-26 Date: 21-04-2025

SHORT TERM INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT)
(Through GOK e-Procurement Platform https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in)

Short-Term Tender is invited for Housing Project work invited by Bangalore Development Authority (Indent Number: BDA/2025-26/HPD-1/WORK_INDENT100). Tender Schedule is as below.

Tender Schedule: (1) Date of availability of Tender Documents in e-portal: **22-04-2025. (2)** Last date and time for submission of Tender Pre-Bid enquiries: **25-04-2025, 11.00 A.M. (3)** Date and time of Tender Pre-Bid Meeting: **25-04-2025, 3.00 P.M. (4)** Last date and time for submission of Tender: **06-05-2025,4.00 P.M. (5)** Date of opening Technical Bid of Tender: **07-05-2025 after 4.30 P.M.**

Interested contractors can view further details on **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** and for more details it is requested to contact the Housing Project Division-1 of BDA during office hours.

Note: For any reason if there is delay in uploading the Tender Documents in e-portal, the revised / modified Tender Schedule will only be published in e-portal.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
HPD-1 Division, BDA, Bangalore.

BANGALORE DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
Office of the Executive Engineer, HPD-1 Division
Bangalore Development Authority, Bangalore.

No: BDA/EE/HPD-1/TEN/T-17/2025-26 Date: 21-04-2025

SHORT TERM INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT)
(Through GOK e-Procurement Platform https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in)

Short-Term Tender is invited for Housing Project work invited by Bangalore Development Authority (Indent Number: BDA/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT98). Tender Schedule is as below.

Tender Schedule: (1) Date of availability of Tender Documents in e-portal: **22-04-2025 (2)** Last date and time for submission of Tender Pre-Bid enquiries: **25-04-2025, 11.00 A.M. (3)** Date and time of Tender Pre-Bid Meeting: **25-04-2025, 3.00 P.M. (4)** Last date and time for submission of Tender: **06-05-2025,4.00 P.M. (5)** Date of opening Technical Bid of Tender: **07-05-2025 after 4.30 P.M.**

Interested contractors can view further details on **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** and for more details it is requested to contact the Housing Project Division-1 of BDA during office hours.

Note: For any reason if there is delay in uploading the Tender Documents in e-portal, the revised / modified Tender Schedule will only be published in e-portal.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
HPD-1 Division, BDA, Bangalore.

BANGALORE DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
Office of the Executive Engineer, HPD-1 Division
Bangalore Development Authority, Bangalore.

No: BDA/EE/HPD-1/TEN/T-18/2025-26 Date: 21-04-2025

SHORT TERM INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT)
(Through GOK e-Procurement Platform https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in)

Short-Term Tender is invited for Housing Project work invited by Bangalore Development Authority (Indent Number: BDA/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT99). Tender Schedule is as below.

Tender Schedule: (1) Date of availability of Tender Documents in e-portal: **22-04-2025 (2)** Last date and time for submission of Tender Pre-Bid enquiries: **25-04-2025, 11.00 A.M. (3)** Date and time of Tender Pre-Bid Meeting: **25-04-2025, 3.00 P.M. (4)** Last date and time for submission of Tender: **06-05-2025,4.00 P.M. (5)** Date of opening Technical Bid of Tender: **07-05-2025 after 4.30 P.M.**

Interested contractors can view further details on **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** and for more details it is requested to contact the Housing Project Division-1 of BDA during office hours.

Note: For any reason if there is delay in uploading the Tender Documents in e-portal, the revised / modified Tender Schedule will only be published in e-portal.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
HPD-1 Division, BDA, Bangalore.

RAIL WHEEL FACTORY
Yelahanka, BANGALORE - 560 064
Website: rwf.indianrailways.gov.in

Tender Notice No.RWF/W/25-26/04 dtd. 17.04.2025

E- TENDERS: On Behalf of the President of India, the Dy. CHIEF ENGINEER invites electronic tender for the following works online through the website http://www.ireps.gov.in (Works).

Tender No.: W.496/RWF/YNK/1052. **Description :** Construction, commissioning and maintenance of 750KLD STP in West Colony and 80KLD STP in East Colony along with other allied works such as construction of collection well, Distribution network, Diversion of UGD to collection well. **Estimated Value:** Rs.112242997.27. **Closing Date & Time:** 10.05.2025 at 11:00 AM.

Dy. Chief Engineer

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public are hereby informed that My Client **Sri. Natesh C S/o. Sri. Chinappa, R/a. No. 26, Chinnappa Building Suddagunte Palya, Dr. Rajkumar Circle, C V Raman Nagar, Bangalore-560093** is willing to Mortgage the Schedule hereunder and referred as Schedule Property to **Bajaj Housing Finance Limited** Which was acquired through gift deed from Sri. Chinappa and also Family Tree of Late Dasappa is also not available with them.

Notice is hereby given to the Legal heirs of the Late Sri. Dasappa and General Public that if any persons, entity, company, firm, institution has or claims any right, title, interest, pending Litigation, tenancy, mortgage, charge, lien or demand or any other interest of whatsoever nature in or upon the Schedule Property or any part thereof, the same may be brought to the notice of the undersigned in writing together with all details and documents in support of such claim **within 07 (Seven) days** from the date of this Notice, failing which it shall be deemed that the aforesaid owners has a clear and marketable title to the schedule Property and that none else has any right, title, interest or claim whatsoever in respect of the Schedule Property and my client would be at liberty to proceed to purchase the schedule Property. Any Claims received after the expiry of the period mentioned above shall neither be entertained nor be binding on my client.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY:

All that piece and parcel of immovable property bearing House List No.44, Katha No. DAW/57/PR/246/2017-18, situated at Dr. Raj Kumar Circle, Jogupalya, (Sudduguntepalya), Byrasandra Dhakale, Krishnarajapura Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, erstwhile Bangalore South Taluk, now coming under the jurisdiction of BBMP Bangalore, measuring East to West 50+30/2 feet and North to South 30 feet in all measuring 1200 square feet and bounded on the:

East by: Property belongs to Sri. Subbanna, West by: Road, North by: Property belongs to HAL, South by: Road.

Mohan Ram B R, Advocate
No.7, 5th Main, Meenakshinagar,
Kamakshipalya, Bangalore-560079.
Contact No. 8722671564
Date : 20-04-2025 Place : Bengaluru

BEFORE THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL -2
BSNL Building, 4th Floor,
Telephone House ,Rajbhavan Road,
Bangalore -560 001

Case No. O.A. No. 1035/2024

Between: State Bank of India
...Applicant

And

Sri Rajesh K & Another ...Defendants

To: 1. Sri Rajesh K S/o. Sri K. Reddeppa aged about 34 years, R/o. 1-23, Ramarao Palle, Gyarampalle Gurukul School, Kambamvaripalle Mandal, Chittoor, Andhra Pradesh - 517 213.

And Also at : Sri Rajesh K., S/o. Sri K. Reddappa, Aged about 34 years, R/o. 510/7, 2nd Floor, 2nd Block, 4th Cross, Yajman Layout, Begur, Bangalore - 560 068.

And Also at : **Sri Rajesh K.,** S/o. Sri K. Reddappa, Aged about 34 years, MPHASIS Ltd., Bagamane Developers Pvt., Ltd., WTC-4, 4th Floor, Mahadevapura, K. R. Puram, Bengaluru - 560 048.

2. M/s. Sri Vani Shelters, Rep by its Managing Director, Mr. K. Pradeep Kumar, Having its Office situated at No. 26/2, Kembhathahalli, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Anjanapura, Bangalore - 560 062.

SUMMONS ISSUED TO THE DEFENDANTS UNDER RULE 23(VIII) OF THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL (PROCEDURE) RULES, 1993, BY PAPER PUBLICATION

WHEREAS, the Applicant has instituted an Application under Section 19 of The Recovery of Debts and Bankruptcy Act, 1993 against you for recovery of a sum of **Rs.38,67,464/-** (Rupees Thirty Eight Lakh Sixty Seven Thousand Four Hundred and Sixty Four only) together with current/future interest and for other relief's.

The above mentioned Defendants are required to appear therefore, hereby directed to appear before the Tribunal in person or through an Advocate or duly instructed in support of their defence to show cause **on 19.06.2025 at 10.30 a.m.**, as to why the relief's prayed for should not be granted.

Take notice that in case of default, the Application will be heard and determined in your absence.

Given under my hand and seal of this Tribunal on this 05.03.2025.

By the Order of the Tribunal
Sd/- Registrar-2
Debts Recovery Tribunal-2 , Bangalore

IN THE COURT OF THE HON'BLE PRINCIPAL CITY CIVIL AND SESSIONS JUDGE (CCH-1) AT BENGALURU

O.S. No. 1589/2025

BETWEEN : NALLAPETA LAKSHMAIAH KRISHNAVENAMMA, A registered charitable Trust, Having its office at No. 112/3, 5th Main Road, Chamarajpet, Bangalore - 560 018. Represented by its Managing Trustees:
a) Sri. N.K. Jagadeesh S/o late Krishnaiah Setty N. L., Aged about 61 years
b) Sri. N. R. Roopesh S/o Sri. Rathnaiah N. L, Aged about 55 years **...Plaintiff**
AND: NIL ...Respondent

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas the above-named Plaintiff, being a registered charitable Trust and the owner of the Schedule property mentioned herein below, has filed the instant suit before this Court in accordance with Section 92 (1) (f) of the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908 seeking permission from this Court to sell the Schedule property below, and to grant such other reliefs as this Court deems fit.

If any person or public interested, who have a right over the Schedule Property are hereby directed to appear in person or through their Counsel duly instructed **on 13.06.2025 at 11.00 a.m.** before the Hon'ble Prl. City Civil Judge at Bengaluru (CCH-1).

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of an immovable property bearing Municipal No. 112/3 (Old No. 112A, prior to that 112), PID No.46-7-112/3, measuring East to West 102 ft. and North to South 108 ft., in all measuring 11,016 Sq.ft., situated at 5th Main Road, Chamrajpet, Bengaluru-560018, and bounded on: **East by :** Private property, **West by :** Private property, **North by** : Conservancy, **South by** : 5th Main Road.

Given under my hand and Seal of the Hon'ble Court on this 04th day of April 2025.

By Order of the Court, Senior Sheristedar, City Civil Court, Bengaluru.
GOUTAM ASSOCIATES, Advocates "Vishwa Sagar", No.60, II Floor, Kanakapura Road, Off H B Samaja Road, Basavanagudi, Bengaluru-560 004.

IN THE COURT OF THE IV ADDL CITY CIVIL JUDGE, MAYO HALL, AT BANGALORE

O.S. No. 25985 of 2024 (CCH-21)

BETWEEN:
1. **Mr. Sherveen Gauhar**, Aged about 24 Years,
2. **Mr. Yaseen Gauhar**, Aged about 18 Years,
Both are Sons of Mr.Mohammed Isa Gauhar, Both are Residing at Apartment No.SF-01, Second Floor, 'Greystone Apartment', No.62, Stephens Road, Frazer Town, Bengaluru - 560005.
Both are represented by their Power of Holder and their Father **Mohammed Isa Gauhar**
...PLAINTIFFS

AND : ZIYU HOMES PRIVATE LIMITED & Another ...DEFENDANTS

Summons to the Defendants No.1, Under Order 5 Rule 20 CPC.

ZIYU HOMES PRIVATE LIMITED
Office at No.485, SN Towers, 2nd Floor, HBR 3rd Block, Opp BDA Complex, Police Chowki, Bengaluru - 560043.
Represented by its CEO & Founder Mr. Ahmed Ali Baig

Whereas the Plaintiffs have filed the above-mentioned suit against you and Ms.Afreen Shaik i.e., Defendant No.2 in respect of the Schedule property, for the relief of ejectment, arrears of rent of Rs.80,750/- together with interest @ 18% p.a and for mesne profits, therefore you are summoned to appear before this Hon'ble court **(CCH-21, Mayo Hall at Bangalore),** in person or by pleader on **12/06/2025**, at 11 a.m, to answer the same, failing which the case will be heard and disposed of Exparte.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

ALL THAT Residential Apartment bearing **No.FF 202**, in **First Floor** of **"BEUFORTE APARTMENTS",** situated at No.5, Stephens Road, Frazer Town, Bangalore, having super built-up area of **1930 Sq.ft,** together with One Covered Car Park in the Basement Floor, the entire property is bounded on:

EAST BY : Private Property (Earlier Portion Property bearing No.5), WEST BY : Stephens Road, NORTH BY : Formerly Ratan Singh's Property, SOUTH BY : Property belonging to Selvanayagam.

Given under my hand and seal of this court on this the 19th Day of April, 2025.

By Order of the Court, DEPUTY REGISTRAR, City Civil Court, Mayo Hall Unit, Bangalore.
Advocate for Plaintiffs
Hitesh Kumar Jain, Advocate, HM Legal, No.24/10, First Floor, Haudin Road, Ulsoor, Bangalore - 42.

BEFORE THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-I AT BANGALORE
BSNL Building, 4th Floor,
Telephone House, Rajbhavan Road,
Bengaluru-560001.

O.A. No. 307/2022

BETWEEN: STATE BANK OF INDIA, SME Centre, Banasawadi, Bangalore-560113. ... **APPLICANT**

AND: M/s. NANDU TOURS and others ... **DEFENDANTS**

To: **DEFENDANTS: 1) M/s. NANDU TOURS,** No.76, KPA Block, Behind Balaji Textiles, Chandra Layout, Vijayanagar, Bangalore-560040. Represented by its Partners, a) Sri. Veerendra Kumar. B. N, b) Smt. Nanda. H. S

2) Sri. VEERENDRA KUMAR .B.N, aged about 53 years, S/o. G. S. Nagarajaiah, R/at No.76, KPA Block, Behind Balaji Textiles, Chandra Layout, Vijayanagar, Bangalore-560040.

3) Smt. NANDA .H.S, aged about 48 years, W/o. B. N. Veerendra Kumar, R/at No.3423-C, 1st 'F' Cross, Venkat Charmalaya, RPC Layout, Subbanna Garden, Bangalore-560040

SUMMONS ISSUED UNDER RULE 23 (VIII) OF DRT (PROCEDURE) RULE 1996

1) WHEREAS, the Applicant has instituted an application under Section 19 of the Recovery of Debts due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 against the Defendant for recovery of Rs.47,82,131/-(Rupees forty seven lakh eighty two thousand one hundred and thirty one only) inclusive of interest till 05.01.2022 along with future interest from 06.01.2022 to till the date of realization of entire claim amount along with cost of this proceedings in respect of Term Loan facility, Cash Credit facility, CCECL Loan facility, WCTL Loan facility, FITL Loan facility and for the reliefs.
2) You are hereby required to show cause within 30 days of the service of the summons or on **10/06/2025** at **10:30 A.M** in the forenoon in person or pleader/advocate duly instructed has to why the relief prayed for should not be granted.
3) Take notice that, in default of your appearance on the day mentioned herein before, the proceedings will heard and determined in your absence.

Given under my hand and seal of this Tribunal on this 11/04/2025

By order of the Tribunal, Registrar, Debts Recovery Tribunal-I, Bangalore.

FEDBANK FINANCIAL SERVICES LTD. AUCTION NOTICE

This is to inform the public at large, that FEDBANK FINANCIAL SERVICES LTD., has decided to conduct Auction of Gold ornaments belonging to accounts (mentioned below) which have become overdue or which have defaults or margin breach customers. The Auction would be held at respective Branches specified below on **Friday 02-05-2025 between 10.00 a.m. to 12.00 p.m.** This would continue till the auction process is over.

Anekal 8884114481 **FEDGL0088**0006218, 0006254, 0006299, 0006301, 0006319 **Arakalgud** 9964260350 **FEDGL0036**0013972, 0013981, 0013997, 0014049, 0014531 **Arasikere** 9620276545 **FEDGL0414**0005108, 0005133, 0005159, 0005456 **B H Road** 8904344610 **FEDGL0103**0017066, 0017129 **BELGAUM** 9538166084 **FEDGL0136**0007390, 0007392, 0007396, 0007405, 0007422 **BELUR** 9483265538 **FEDGL0159**0012008, 0012009 **BOMMANAHALLI** 8555046900 **FEDGL0014**0008310, 0008541, 0008543 **BTM LAYOUT** 9980764782 **FEDGL0003**0007274 **BYADGI** 8970590276 **FEDGL0051**0013036, 0013055 **Caltex Circle** 9900291944 **FEDGL0102**0015128, 0015864 **Car Street Bellary** 9535205038 **FEDGL0092**0006134 **CHANNAPATNA** 9743172738 **FEDGL0176**0020811, 0020863 **CHIKKAMAGALUR** 9164264697 **FEDGL0021**0008794, 0008809 **DAVANGERE** 8792107472 **FEDGL0229**0010354, 0010611 **dharwad** 8152913405 **FEDGL0233**0006851, 0006882, 0006892, 0006906, 0006913 **Gadag** 9902373905 **FEDGL0420**0005705 **Gubbi** 7760812077 **FEDGL0046**0016972, 0016982, 0017000, 0017010, 0017011, 0017018, 0017026, 0017078, 0017139, 0020405 **Gundalpete** 9916977750 **FEDGL0383**0005055 **H D Kote** 8147199881 **FEDGL0058**0013043 **Hagaribommanhalli** 9481555371 **FEDGL0100**0012047, 0012089, 0012105, 0012106, 0012131 **FEDBD0100**0000172 **HANSUR** 7760995688 **FEDGL0162**0018163, 0018198 **Harappanahalli** 9945998329 **FEDGL0104**0012731 **HARIHAR** 8147533256 **FEDGL0022**0015456, 0015464, 0015812, 0015872 **HASSAN MARKET** 8970429398 **FEDGL0157**0015595, 0015695, 0015726 **HAVERI** 8880914476 **FEDGL0181**0012085, 0012130, 0012507 **HENNUR** 8123668156 **FEDGL0015**0005416 **Holenarsipura** 9591033235 **FEDGL0059**0024229, 0026540 **HOSA ROAD** 8050825082 **FEDGL0002**0017143 **Hosadurga** 8105000953 **FEDGL0412**0006384, 0006449, 0006470 **Hospet** 9743956995 **FEDGL0099**0009406, 0009482, 0009535, 0009536, 0009925, 0009974 **K R NAGAR** 9901175713 **FEDGL0161**0013496, 0014686 **K R Pete** 9880106025 **FEDGL0063**0009361 **K R ROAD** 7829541516 **FEDGL0037**0006802, 0006805, 0006825, 0006829, 0006836, 0007468 **FEDDS0037**0000087, 0000088 **Kadur** 9844224685 **FEDGL0487**0004366, 0004407, 0004450 **KAMMANAHALLI** 8310471800 **FEDGL0005**0005630 **Kampli** 6361077968 **FEDGL0095**0009481, 0009490, 0009495, 0009509, 0009513, 0009529, 0009545 **KOPIKAR ROAD** 8792207075 **FEDGL0155**0008916 **Kudligi** 7760491423 **FEDGL0404**0006828, 0006838, 0006870, 0006878, 0006894, 0006921, 0006946, 0006960, 0009212, 0009241 **FEDBD0404**0000277 **Kunigal** 9738833176 **FEDGL0121**0011439, 0011549 **Madhugiri** 9972981737 **FEDGL0393**0008951, 0008976, 0009131 **Malavalli** 9742509190 **FEDGL0365**0006584, 0007007 **Malebennur** 8884276416 **FEDGL0062**0012798, 0012816 **MANDYA** 8453194687 **FEDGL0163**0009188, 0009189, 0009196, 0009251 **Mundargi** 9886453768 **FEDGL0064**0010402, 0010412, 0010439, 0010465, 0010487, 0010492, 0010512 **Nagarbhavi** 9845543854 **FEDGL0031**0006953 **NANJANGODE** 9611312789 **FEDGL0160**0015955 **Nelamangala** 9108850892 **FEDGL0392**0003713 **Pavagada** 9448386998 **FEDGL0377**0010551, 0010641, 0010662, 0010665, 0010671, 0010681, 0010693, 0010718, 0010730, 0010735, 0010738, 0010747, 0010771, 0010777, 0010781 **Periapatna** 9449955714 **FEDGL0044**0010571, 0010572, 0010651, 0010694, 0012779, 0012819 **Ramamurthy Nagar** 9379513202 **FEDGL0035**0003053, 0003063, 0003094 **RAMANAGARA** 8197884697 **FEDGL0180**0025658, 0025731, 0025758 **RAMASWAMY CIRCLE** 9620136356 **FEDGL0173**0008939 **RANEBENNUR** 8904013982 **FEDGL0232**0012242, 0012254, 0012292 **SHIMOGA** 9513242321 **FEDGL0183**0012231, 0012233, 0012237, 0012261, 0012289, 0012298, 0012322 **Sindhanur** 8880890891 **FEDGL0461**0003980, 0003986, 0004048, 0004065, 0004073 **Sira** 9686864110 **FEDGL0376**0011140, 0011177, 0011201, 0011207, 0011213, 0011294, 0011319, 0012160, 0014331, 0014363 **SIRSI** 9945929333 **FEDGL0193**0008246, 0008255, 0008261 **Srinivasa Nagar** 9480888960 **FEDGL0089**0005761, 0006415 **Tiptur** 9739894909 **FEDGL0047**0010791, 0010887 **Turuvekere** 9964345178 **FEDGL0386**0006738, 0006813, 0006847 **Yeshwantpur** 9844851400 **FEDGL0034**0006639

Change in Venue or Date, if any will be displayed on our Website www.fedfina.com. All bidders participating will be intimated subsequently with respect to acceptance or rejection of bids submitted by them. Customer who want to release their ornaments shall visit at the base branch wherein the ornaments were pledged by the customer or contact at the number mentioned above on/or before 30-04-2025 subject to the terms and condition applicable.

Auction will be conducted at respective branches, in case the auction does not get completed on the given date due to any reasons, the auction in respect thereto shall be conducted on subsequent working days at district level branch after displaying the details on our Website. No further communication shall be issued in this regard.

Dated : 21-04-2025 **For, sd/- Authorised Signatory**
Place : Karnataka **Fedbank Financial Services Ltd.,**

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JANA SMALL FINANCE BANK (A Scheduled Commercial Bank)
Registered Office: The Fairway, Ground & First Floor, Survey No.10/1, 11/2 & 12/2B, Off Domlur, Koramangla Inner Ring Road, Next to EGL Business Park, Challaghatta, Bangalore-560071.

DEMAND NOTICE UNDER SECTION 13(2) OF SARFAESI ACT, 2002.

Whereas you the below mentioned Borrower's, Co-Borrower's, Guarantor's and Mortgagors have availed loans from **Jana Small Finance Bank Limited,** by mortgaging your immovable properties. Consequent to default committed by you all, your loan account has been classified as **Non-performing Asset,** whereas **Jana Small Finance Bank Limited** being a secured creditor under the Act, and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13(2) of the said Act read with rule 2 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued **Demand notice** calling upon the Borrower's/ Co-Borrower's/ Guarantor's/ Mortgagors as mentioned in column No.2 to repay the amount mentioned in the notices with future interest thereon within **60 days** from the date of notice, but the notices could not be served on some of them for various reasons.

Sr. No.	Name of Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantor/ Mortgagor	Loan Account No. & Loan Amount	Details of the Security to be enforced	Date of NPA & Demand Notice date	Amount Due in Rs. / as on
1	1) Mr. Nagaraj M, 2) Mrs. Jyothi M	Loan Account No. 46459630001006 46459410001762 Loan Amount: Rs.3,00,000/- Rs.1,68,000/-	**Mortgaged Immovable Property:** All the piece and parcel of the property bearing Katha No.162/10, Assessment No.10, situated at Shivanapura Village, Nandagudi Hobli, Hosakote Taluk and **Bounded by the: East by:** Sri Venkataramanappa House, **West by:** Road, **North by:** Site Property, **South by:** Sri Muniraju House. Measuring 27X19 Feet. Measuring East to West: 6.705 Mtrs and North to South: 8.229 Mtrs, in all measuring 55.18 Sq.mtrs.	Date of NPA: 03-04-2025 Demand Notice Date: 17-04-2025	**Rs.3,50,319.78** (Rupees Three Lakh Fifty Thousand Three Hundred Nineteen and Seventy Eight Paisa Only) **due as on 14-04-2025**
2	1) Mr. Suresh, 2) Mrs. Dundamma	Loan Account No. 45359630001945 47059360002896 Loan Amount: Rs.5,00,000/- Rs.53,000/-	**Mortgaged Immovable Property:** All thatpiece and parcel of the Property No.152900401600200408 Khatha No.20/21, measuring East to West 15.24 Meters and North to South 9.144 Meters, Situated at Aralalasandra Village, Kanchugaranahalli Grama Panchayath, Ramanagara Block, Ramanagara District and **Bounded on: East by:** House belongs to Dodda Ningaiah, **West by:** House belongs to Muttamma, **North by:** Road, **South by:** House belongs to Arasamma.	Date of NPA: 31-03-2025 Demand Notice Date: 17-04-2025	**Rs.4,81,787.67** (Rupees Four Lakh Eighty One Thousand Seven Hundred Eighty Seven and Sixty Seven Paisa Only) **due as on 14-04-2025**
3	1) Ms. Girija B N, 2) Ms. Amrutha B N, 3) Mrs. Gopamma, 4) Mr. B N Narashimaiaha	Loan Account No. 46459630001160 46459410000644 Loan Amount: Rs.5,00,000/- Rs.4,15,000/-	**Mortgaged Immovable Property:** All the piece and parcel of the property bearing No.73/23, E-Khatha No.150300400800300080, situated at Bettahalli Village, Hosakote Taluk, Bangalore Rural District, Presently comes under the limits of Giddappanahalli Village Panchayath and **Bounded by the: East by:** Road, **West by:** Site No.44, **North by:** Site No.24, **South by:** Kaloni. Measuring East to West: 12.192 Mtrs and North to South: 9.144 Mtrs, in all measuring 111.48 Sq.mtrs.	Date of NPA: 03-04-2025 Demand Notice Date: 17-04-2025	**Rs.8,16,323.01** (Rupees Eight Lakh Sixteen Thousand Three Hundred Twenty Three and One Paisa Only) **due as on 14-04-2025**
4	1) Ms. Manjula, 2) Mrs. Munivenkatamma, 3) Mr. Suresh	Loan Account No. 46459630001058 46459410000621 Loan Amount: Rs.5,00,000/- Rs.3,73,000/-	**Mortgaged Immovable Property:** All the piece and parcel of the property bearing No.173, Katha ID No.150200401600800166, situated at Manduru Village, Bangalore East Taluk, Bangalore District, presently comes under the limits of Manduru Gram Panchayath and **Bounded by the: East by:** Somanna, **West by:** Vacant Site, **North by:** Venkataswamy, **South by:** Muni Obalappa. Measuring East to West: 11.27 Mtrs and North to South: 4.26 Mtrs, in all measuring 48.01 Sq.mtrs.	Date of NPA: 03-04-2025 Demand Notice Date: 17-04-2025	**Rs.7,63,775.40** (Rupees Seven Lakh Sixty Three Thousand Seven Hundred Seventy Five and Forty Paisa Only) **due as on 14-04-2025**
5	1) Mr. N Nagaraj, 2) Mrs. Narasamma	Loan Account No. 31879630000529 31879410001012 Loan Amount: Rs.5,00,000/- Rs.4,93,000/-	**Mortgaged Immovable Property:** All that piece and parcel of the property bearing Site No.992, Sy.No.02, measuring East to West 17.6 Feet and North to South 19 Feet, totally measuring 334.4 Sq.feet situated at Siddarth Nagar, Peenya Plantation, Rajarajeshwarinagar and **Bounded on: East by:** Galli, **West by:** Galli, **North by:** Site No.993, **South by:** Site No.991.	Date of NPA: 03-04-2025 Demand Notice Date: 17-04-2025	**Rs.8,62,047.61** (Rupees Eight Lakh Sixty Two Thousand Forty Seven and Sixty One Paisa Only) **due as on 14-04-2025**

Notice is therefore given to the Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantor & Mortgagor as mentioned in Column No.2, calling upon them to make payment of the aggregate amount as shown in column No.6, against all the respective Borrower/ Co-Borrower within **60 days** of Publication of this notice as the said amount is found payable in relation to the respective loan account as on the date shown in Column No. 6. It is made clear that if the aggregate amount together with future interest and other amounts which may become payable till the date of payment, is not paid, **Jana Small Finance Bank Limited** shall be constrained to take appropriate action for enforcement of security interest upon properties as described in Column No.4. Please note that this publication is made without prejudice to such rights and remedies as are available to **Jana Small Finance Bank Limited** against the Borrower's/ Co-Borrower's/ Guarantor's/ Mortgagors of the said financials under the law, you are further requested to note that as per section 13(13) of the said act, you are restrained/ prohibited from disposing of or dealing with the above security or transferring by way of sale, lease or otherwise of the secured asset without prior consent of Secured Creditor.

Date: 21.04.2025, Place: Bangalore Rural & Bangalore **Sd/- Authorised Officer, For Jana Small Finance Bank Limited**

QuoteExpress IT ALWAYS SEEMS IMPOSSIBLE UNTIL IT'S DONE > NELSON MANDELA

₹8,500 CR have been infused by foreign investors in equity mkts last week.

NRIs can get tax-free returns from Indian MFs

A recent ruling by Mumbai ITAT says NRIs are not required to pay taxes on gains from Indian MF investments

DIPAK MONDAL @ New Delhi

IF you are an NRI, who has invested in Indian mutual funds, it is possible that the capital gains from those investments could escape taxes completely.

Recently, the Mumbai Income Tax Appellate Tribunal (ITAT) has ruled capital gains earned from Indian MF units by NRIs will not be taxed in India. Its decision is based on the India-Singapore Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement (DTAA).

The ruling was given while hearing an appeal by Anushka Sanjay Shah, a Singapore-based NRI. Shah had earned ₹1.35 crore in short-term capital gains from the sale of equity and debt MF units during the assessment year 2022–23. She claimed that, being a Singapore tax resident, the capital gains should not be taxable in India under tax treaty between India and Singapore. While the Assessing Officer (AO) rejected her claim, treating mutual fund units as equivalent to shares of Indian companies and attempted to tax the entire amount, the ITAT contended that MFs in India are created as trusts and not companies under SEBI regulations. Since the term "share" is not defined in the DTAA, and MF units are not treated as shares under the Companies Act, and hence cannot be taxed.

TAX ON INDIAN MUTUAL FUNDS

FUND CATEGORY	SHORT-TERM CAPITAL GAINS	LONG-TERM CAPITAL GAINS
Equity mutual funds	**20%** if held for less than **1** year	**12.5%** if capital gain is more than **₹1.25** lakh, and held for more than a year
Debt mutual fund	As per tax slab	As per tax slab
All FOFs (that hold less than 65% in debt)/International/ gold funds/ETFs	Slab rate if held for less than **2** years	**12.5%** if held for over **2** years

Implications of judgment

This judgment not only impacts NRIs in Singapore but could also influence similar cases involving non-residents in countries like Switzerland and the UAE with DTAAs in place. The ruling reinforces the distinction between mutual fund units and equity shares in tax treatment. The ITAT judgment effectively makes capital gains from Indian mutual funds tax free for NRIs in countries like UAE and Singapore, which do not impose capital gains tax. "This is about India's Double Taxation Avoidance Agreements (DTAAs) with countries like the UAE, Singapore, Mauritius, and Portugal which exempt these capital gains on mutual fund investments as it gives the taxing rights to the country of the investor's tax residency," says Yeeshu Sehgal, head of tax markets, AKM Global. This, he adds, is advantageous for NRIs residing in jurisdictions that do not levy capital gains tax at all, such as the UAE. According to Nilesh Shah, MD, Kotak Mahindra AMC, the ITAT decision has the potential of incentivising Indian citizens to shift tax residency and save on capital gains tax liability on MF units. Fearing that this provision will be abused by seasonal non-residents, Shah suggests the government should ensure that tax is paid in the host country where income is generated and credit is taken in the reciprocal country if the same income is getting taxes in that country so that double taxation is avoided.

IN CONVERSATION

ARUN SHUKLA
President and Director, JK Lakshmi Cement

'Worst is behind us; demand for cement to grow at 7-8% in FY26'

THE ₹10,000 crore market cap company— JK Lakshmi Cement — is planning to expand its production capacity from 18 million tonnes now to 30 million tonnes in next five years. President and director **Arun Shukla** lays down the company's expansion plans in a conversation with **Dipak Mondal.** Edited excerpts:

What are your initial thoughts on the ongoing trade war and its impact on the cement industry?
The impact on the Indian cement industry is likely to be lesser. While India imports petcoke to some extent, most raw materials are sourced domestically. India's reliance on exports is about 20% of GDP, so the maximum impact would be within that range. The 90-day pause in the trade war and ongoing government negotiations might provide some relief.

The cement industry has witnessed a decline in prices over the last two years, impacting top and bottom lines. How do you see the overall situation evolving?
While FY23 saw around 10% growth and FY24 also around 10%, FY25 is expected to grow at about 5-5.5%. The profitability and price issues are due to competitive intensity and the demand-supply equation, which varies across different regions. Areas with a high demand-supply gap tend to have lower prices, while balanced regions see stable prices.

What's your outlook for FY26 for cement investors? Do you expect margin improvements?
Q1 FY25 was impacted by the general elections, and Q2 is typically a low-demand period due to the monsoon. This affected prices. However, demand has been improving in subsequent quarters, leading to better profitability and volume growth. I am optimistic that FY26 will see a 7-8% demand growth and improved margins as demand and pricing tend to move together. I believe the worst is behind us.

The Indian cement industry is quite fragmented, leading to acquisitions, particularly in certain regions. We focus on our internal capabilities like differentiated products & services.

What are the major growth drivers for the cement industry in FY26?
The major growth drivers are housing (urban and rural, contributing 63-65% of demand with an expected 6-7% growth), infrastructure (contributing about 25% with a 7-8% growth rate), and commercial & industrial (up to 15% with around 6% growth). Government initiatives like the ₹9.3 lakh crore capex, focus on urban and rural housing, airport expansion to 200, metro projects, and national highway development will further drive demand.

What is your view on handling competition, especially with ongoing consolidation in the sector?
The Indian cement industry is quite fragmented, leading to acquisitions, particularly in certain regions. We focus on our internal capabilities like innovation, differentiated products and services, and providing value to customers. We've launched products like Green Plus (a 'green cement') and Pro Plus (a premium product for individual home builders). We also focus on renewable energy and carbon footprint reduction, aiming for carbon neutrality by 2047. We compete by focusing on these internal strengths rather than solely on acquisitions.

With premium products reporting higher margins for other players, what kind of growth and contribution do you expect from your premium portfolio?
Our premium product, Pro Plus, offers value beyond just price. We are happy that our premium product proportion within our trade portfolio (which is 58-60% of overall volume) is over 25%. This translates to about 15% of our total volume coming from premium products.

What are your capex plans for the coming year?
We currently have a capacity of 18 million tonnes and plan to reach 30 million tonnes by 2030. We've announced a 4.6 million tonne expansion in the East, expected around FY27-FY28.

MONEY-WISE

WHY EQUITIES BEST FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

FINANCIAL ADVICE

PV SUBRAMANYAM
writes at www.subramoney.com and has authored the best seller 'Retire Rich - Invest ₹40 a day'

I was sitting in an airport lounge when a young woman approached me and said "I watch your YT videos, but sorry, I don't invest in equities". She left after a short conversation. My views on equities have changed over the past 4+ decades – it has only increased my 'pro-equity' stance.

Thanks to late Mr. Jack Bogle (Vanguard funds) in USA, Sebi, and competition, the asset management fees are at its lowest. There is a fantastic back end – the stock exchange creates a price discovery mechanism so I am sure that the asset manager is not lying about the transaction price, timing or quantity. Unlike Private equity, Real estate, Private credit, Art, venture capital funding, the equity market is open (MFs too). If you are a young investor there are many OLD reasons too to invest in equities.

Equities are often considered the best asset class for young investors due to their unique combination of growth potential, time horizon alignment, and risk-reward dynamics. Here's why:

- **High Growth Potential**: Equities historically offer higher average returns compared to other asset classes like bonds or cash. Over long periods, stocks have averaged around 7-10% annual returns (inflation-adjusted) in major markets like the US, driven by corporate earnings growth and economic expansion. For example, the S&P 500 has delivered a nominal return of about 10.5% annually from 1926 to 2024. In India, the TRI Sensex has gone from 100 in 1979 to 166,000 in 2025. This is 18% CAGR! -without adjusting for inflation.
- **Long Time Horizon:** Young investors typically have decades before retirement, allowing them to ride out market volatility. Equities are volatile in the short term, with frequent corrections (10-20% drops) and occasional crashes. However, over 20-30 years, the probability of negative returns diminishes significantly.
- **Compounding Returns:** The power of compounding is amplified with equities due to their higher returns.
- **Inflation Hedge:** Equities tend to outpace inflation over time, preserving and growing purchasing power. Companies can raise prices and increase profits, unlike fixed-income assets, which lose real value in inflationary environments.
- **Diversification and Accessibility:** Equities offer broad diversification through index funds or ETFs, reducing company-specific risk. Young investors can start with a small amount of SIP, making equities more accessible than real estate or private investments.
- **Risk Tolerance:** Young investors can afford to take on the higher risk of equities because they have time to recover from downturns and fewer immediate liquidity needs.
- **Diversification Matters:** Concentration in a single share of sectors increases risk. Broad market funds are safer.

Equities align with young investors' long time horizons, risk tolerance, and wealth-building goals, offering unmatched growth potential through compounding and inflation protection. Starting early and staying consistent maximize these benefits.

MONEY MATTERS

MULTI-ASSET INVESTING IS GETTING REAL

FINANCIAL KNOWLEDGE

RAJAS KELKAR
(The author is editor-in-chief at www.moneyminute.in)

WHEN you construct your investment portfolio, you want to protect your money and grow it to beat inflation. You know the value of your hard-earned money because you got there with a considerable effort. You have made sacrifices to save money and worked harder to make more money. Letting it go to inflation or factors that are not in your control can make you uncomfortable.

The world now is going through immense uncertainty. Global trade wars, regional conflicts, technology disruptions and local demand and supply issues are making it harder for policymakers and analysts to determine the future trajectory of inflation, interest rates and economic growth. There are green spots in all crises. This time, you can see top investment firm analysts pointing at those green spots but lacking conviction in their commentary. There are a lot of 'ifs' and 'buts' in every potentially attractive story.

For example, many global banks are divided over India's attractiveness as an investment destination for foreign investors. Domestic mutual funds hold a significant amount of their portfolios in cash to protect their schemes from losing value in volatile times.

Diversification is the key

Ensuring sufficient portfolio diversification is the only way to deal with uncertainty and volatility. India's financial markets offer you diversification into multiple assets like never before. You can directly buy stocks, bonds, commodities, real estate or infrastructure investment trusts that offer varying returns. A new consulting paper for comments by the Securities and Exchange Board of India highlights letting mutual funds own more units of real estate and investment trusts than before through hybrid schemes, considering investment trust or real estate trust-specific schemes and including them in benchmark indices. REITs generate their income through commercial property rent. Investment Trusts generate their income through tolls on roads. With rapid urbanization, there is likely to be a significant jump in the sale of commercial property and physical infrastructure assets like roads and the sale of conventional and non-conventional power.

MANDAR PARDIKAR

According to a recent speech by Sebi's whole-time director Ashwani Bhatia, the potential for you to invest in government and corporate bonds, ReITs and investment trusts (InvITs), and even municipal bonds in the future could be immense.

REITs in India only account for about 10% of the country's total listed real estate value, covering nearly 126 million square feet. That is far lower than the over 90% seen in developed markets such as the USA and UK. "This gap presents substantial growth opportunities and highlights the need for further promotion of REITs and InvITs, alongside the development of regulatory frameworks to support their expansion," he said in the speech.

In the same breath, the Sebi director highlighted the potential for the bond market. Despite efforts to encourage increased trading in listed government and corporate bonds, the debt market in India does not see significant investor participation. India's bond market value is 0.65 times the equity market. In contrast, bond markets in the US and Japan have a market value of 1.2 to 2 times the size of equity markets.

That shows a higher interest in the risky equity markets and low investor interest in the bond market despite generating fixed returns. In 2024-25, Indian companies raised a record $124bn by selling corporate bonds. Despite that, the corporate bond market accounts for only 18% of the gross domestic product, against 80% in Korea and 36% in China.

The next frontier could be Municipal bonds. The government allowed municipalities to access financial markets to raise money through the issue of bonds in 2015. Since then, 13 municipalities raised over ₹2,834 crore ($ 329m). As of December 2024, the value of municipal bonds in the United States stood at over $4.1 trillion. The municipal bond ecosystem can add further depth to your fixed-income investments.

Reserve Bank is on a gold-buying spree

BENN KOCHUVEEDAN @ Mumbai

WITH the US dollar losing its sheen as the world's most trusted reserve currency, central banks across the world have been on a gold buying spree. The Reserve Bank is in the forefront as the second largest buyer of the yellow metal, snapping up 2.8 tonnes in January and February 2025 alone, on top of 72.6 tonnes in 2024, taking the overall haul to 879 tonnes.

At 879 tonnes, the share of gold in the country's total forex reserves is a as high as 11.7% of $677.8 billion, according to the latest Reserve Bank data for the week to April 11, when it rose by $1.56 billion over the previous week marking the fifth consecutive weeks of gains.

With 879 tonnes of gold reserves, the country is the seventh largest in terms of gold reserves after the US(8,133.46 tonnes), Germany (3,351.53 tonnes), Italy (2,451.84 tonnes), France (2,436.94 tonnes), China (2,264.32 tonnes) and Switzerland (1,039.94 tonnes). Japan, though is the world's third largest economy, its gold haul is at the eight position at 845.97 tonnes. In 2024, according to the World Gold Council, the RBI was the second-largest central bank in the world when it came to purchasing gold, buying 72.6 tonnes in 2024, raising the total gold reserves by 9%. The RBI bought gold in 11 out of the 12 months of the year.

Just to look at these numbers: Of the total gold reserves of 879 tonne, in 2024 alone, the RBI expanded its gold reserves by 72.6 tonnes, which is more than three times it did in the previous year when it bought 16.2 tonnes, and 33.3 tonnes in 2022 and a much higher 77.5 tonnes in 2021. As against these, the central banks across the world, RBI included, snapped up 44 tonnes till February 2025, 1,045 tonnes in 2024, 1,037 tonnes in 2023 and 1,082 tonnes in 2022, according to World Gold council data. The share of gold in the country's total foreign exchange reserves rose sharply to 11.4% in 2024, up from just 6.7% in 2019 and marginally up to 11.6% so far in 2025. According to the WGC, the RBI has added 2.8 tonnes in the first two months of 2025. And this came at a time when the metal was roaring— gold rose 15% in 2023, 22% in 2024 and a whopping 28% so far in 2025! From a monthly comparison, the metal was fetching a low $1,725/ ounce in April 2021, which rose to $1920 in April 2022, further rose to $2000 in April 2023, $2,350 in April 2024 and a whopping $3,368 in April (16) 2025, which is almost 90% rally in just five years.

MTNL defaults on loans worth over ₹8,300 crore

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

MAHANAGAR Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) has reported defaults totaling ₹8,346 crore in principal and interest payments to several banks.

In an exchange filing, the telecom operator said that the total default amount comprises ₹7,794 crore in principal and ₹552 crore in overdue interest owed to banks including Union Bank of India, Bank of India, Punjab National Bank, State Bank of India, UCO Bank, Punjab and Sind Bank, and Indian Overseas Bank.

The largest default is to Union Bank of India, amounting to ₹3,633 crore. In contrast, the smallest default is to Punjab National Bank, totaling ₹464 crore. MTNL's accounts with these banks were classified as Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) starting as early as August and September 2024, with the most recent NPA classification reported in February 2025 for Indian Overseas Bank.

This NPA classification by multiple lenders underscores MTNL's severe financial distress and the challenges it faces in servicing its obligations, prompting government consideration of revival strategies. MTNL, which provides telecom services in Mumbai and New Delhi, as well as in Mauritius, Africa, recently signed a deal with BSNL to expand their 4G networks.

Indian Bank plans to disburse ₹20k cr to SHGs

PTI @ Chennai

PUBLIC sector Indian Bank has set a target to disburse ₹20,000 crore to Self Help Groups nationwide during the current financial year, an official said.

The city-headquartered bank conducted a 'Mega SHG Credit Outreach Programme' in Bhubaneswar towards this vision. Government of India, Department of Financial Services, Secretary M Nagaraju, the bank's MD and CEO Binod Kumar and ED Mahesh Kumar Bajaj were present on the occasion, a release said on Sunday. A total of 9,961 Self Help Groups received sanction letters amounting to ₹509.91 crore providing financial support to grassroots women entrepreneurs on the occasion.

Rune upsets Alcaraz to clinch Barcelona Open

Holger Rune upset home-crowd favorite Carlos Alcaraz in straight sets on Sunday to win the Barcelona Open for his first title since 2023. Rune beat the Spaniard 7-6 (6), 6-2 for his first title since winning in Munich two years ago, and fifth overall. Alcaraz was coming off a nine-match winning streak that included his first Monte Carlo Masters title last weekend.

Behind Rasheed's rise, a tale of sweat and tears

Father's struggles over the years helped batter to reach big stage

FIROZ MIRZA @ Mumbai

CSK opener Shaik Rasheed in action against MI in Mumbai on Sunday | AP

CHENNAI Super Kings youngest ever opener Shaik Rasheed's story is full of struggles, hardships and sacrifices. His father, Shaik Balisha Vali, had to quit his job to ensure his son got proper cricket training. At times, he had to sell fruits to keep the family afloat.

At one point, a couple of Balisha's friends — one of whom is a doctor in Hyderabad with another being a banker in the same city — too gave financial aid to help fuel Rasheed's dreams.

All the hardships and sacrifices culminated with the U-19 side winning the 2022 World Cup when Rasheed was the team's vice-captain. Yet another chapter was added to the fairytale when he impressed on his IPL debut for Chennai against Lucknow a few days ago. "I saw his innings on TV and was very happy," Balisha told this daily in Telugu (he cannot speak Hindi or English). "I was working in a private company in Hyderabad when Rasheed got selected to a cricket academy in Hyderabad at the age of eight. Two years later, he got selected for the U-14 Andhra team. In my bid to provide him good cricket training, I moved the family comprising me, my wife Jyothi and two sons to Guntur. He was then enrolled at the Mangalagiri Cricket Academy in 2014."

The shift, however, cost Balisha financially as he had to quit his job. "The academy was around 40km from our house. I had to drop him to the academy and pick him up every day so I left my job. I sold fruits in the market to make ends meet. It was a difficult time as my elder son Riyaz, now is working in Hyderabad, was also pursuing studies then."

It was around that time when the doctor, Dr Indrasen Reddy, and the banker, Ulli Srikanth came to his rescue.

Shaik Rasheed with his father Shaik Balisha Vali (R) | SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

"They saw the potential in Rasheed and started helping me financially. They are friends and know my financial limitations."

He also credited coaches — AG Prasad, SN Ganesh, Krishna Rao and N Nirmal Kumar — for developing Rasheed's cricketing skills.

The struggles, however, were far from over as travelling to cities like Chennai and Hyderabad for various tournaments was not easy. "I could not afford to reserve seats on the train so we used to travel in the general compartment. Rasheed used to sleep over his cricket kit next to the toilet on many occasions."

The U-19 World Cup changed that. In 2023, Rasheed, a right hand batter and leg break bowler, was picked up by Chennai. By then, Rasheed had already made his senior debut for Andhra across all formats. Rasheed, however, didn't get a game in 2023 and 2024 and was again bought for ₹30 lakh in the auctions ahead of this year's edition.

The day finally arrived as the five-time champions handed Rasheed an IPL debut against Lucknow and he reposed the faith put on him as he scored 27 off 19 while opening the innings. Incidentally, the match also saw CSK snapping their five-match losing streak in the tournament.

The franchise is known to rely more on experience and only a few youngsters have made it to the playing XI so far and Rasheed is one among them which speaks volumes about his talent.

"I have planned to visit Chennai to watch him in action from the stands. It will be a moment to cherish for a lifetime," signed off Balisha.

The journey this time is going to be pleasant as Balisha will not be travelling in the general compartment and his son, who used to sleep over the kit bag adjacent to the toilet, will have the backing of the entire CSK fans at the MA Chidambaram Stadium in Chennai with father in attendance.

KNIGHTS FACE TITANIC CHALLENGE

AFTER FAILING TO CHASE DOWN ONE OF THE LOWEST TOTALS, HOLDERS KKR FACE LEAGUE LEADERS GUJARAT TITANS AT THE EDEN GARDENS IN KOLKATA TODAY. A LOOK...

PERMUTATIONS AND COMBINATIONS

Both the teams have cut open formidable batting line-ups so far this season. For the Titans, Prasidh Krishna has got the purple cap with 14 wickets. For the holders, mystery spinner Varun Chakravarthy and pacer Harshit Rana have 10 wickets each, in addition to Sunil Narine and Moeen Ali.

8.05
KKR have been the most economical with the ball in the tournament so far

EDEN GARDENS EXPECTS A 'GILLCOMING'

Titans skipper will come to familiar territory, at the Eden Gardens. Being a part of the trinity with B Sai Sudarshan and Jos Buttler, Gill has scored 215 of the 895 runs so far. Right time for Gill to elevate his game?

KKR vs GT AT EDEN GARDENS, KOLKATA | LIVE ON STAR SPORTS & JIOHOTSTAR, 7.30 PM

Mumbai pile more misery on Chennai

FIROZ MIRZA @ Mumbai

A day after head coach Stephen Fleming hinted Chennai Super Kings would be looking at giving more game time to the younger players in the remaining games this edition, Mumbai batter Ayush Mhatre made his IPL debut with the yellow brigade here at the Wankhede Stadium on Sunday. In doing so, Mhatre, 17-year-and-278-day-old, also became the youngest ever to play for the five-time champions.

Before the contest against arch-rivals Mumbai Indians, the MS Dhoni-led side had already offered a chance to the likes of Noor Ahmad and Sheik Rasheed, players very much in the January of their careers.

It's quite unlikely of the Chennai franchise as they have always preferred experience over youngsters, the strategy that earned them the moniker of Dads Army. During their 15-year stint in the Indian Premier League (they were banned for 2016 and 2017 seasons), they followed their tried and tested method of going with seasoned campaigners. And it did yield results as they are the joint-most successful franchise in the tournament despite playing two seasons fewer than Mumbai Indians (both with five titles). But desperate times call for desperate measures and CSK were in a precarious position with five losses from seven matches before the much-hyped clash in Mumbai. Fleming rightly admitted it when he told

Rohit Sharma (L) and Suryakumar Yadav guided MI home with ease | AP

media persons, "Our results to date have brought all the squad members into play. It's been our tradition in the past to stick with more experienced players and they've given us the results that we were after. But when you don't get the results you're looking for, all the squad members, their philosophies, are tested and certainly you've seen by the addition of players and the use of players that we will be using more players this year in the squad than what we have done before."

The change was there to see when youngsters Mhatre and Rasheed added 41 runs off 22 balls for the second wicket after the team lost opener Rachin Ravindra early in the innings. Mhatre played the role of enforcer as he slammed 32 off just 15 balls that included four fours and two sixes before falling to former CSK pacer Deepak Chahar. Shivam Dube then played the knock he is expected to every time he comes to bat as he completed his first half-century of the 2025 edition in 32 balls but, to be fair, he had made just three off the first 10 balls. His innings was laced with two fours and four sixes. Ravindra Jadeja, who once again was promoted to No. 4, also played his part slamming a fifty off just 34 balls. The half-century was only his only fourth in his entire IPL career that started with the inaugural season in 2008. The combined efforts of their batters meant CSK posted 176/4, their joint-second best total of the tournament, in the allotted 20 overs.

Team	M	W	Pts	NRR
GT	7	5	10	0.98
DC	7	5	10	0.58
RCB	8	5	10	0.47
PBKS	8	5	10	0.17
LSG	8	5	10	0.08
MI	8	4	8	0.48
KKR	7	3	6	0.54
RR	8	2	4	-0.63
SRH	7	2	4	-1.21
CSK	8	2	4	-1.39

Updated till MI vs CSK tie

With R Ashwin coming in as an impact player, Dhoni's plan was clear — choke opponents with a three-pronged spin attack. But for it to bear fruits, the visitors needed to send back Rohit Sharma, who was MI's impact player, early. But that didn't happen as the former MI captain got back to form with a fluent half-century. Afghanistan tweaker Noor Ahmad, CSK's leading wicket taker this season, was surprisingly introduced only in the tenth over and that didn't help the team's cause. The surface, which was last used against Royal Challengers Bengaluru when MI almost chased down 222, added to the misery of CSK.

While Rohit was calculative, India T20I skipper Suryakumar Yadav was harsh on CSK bowlers. With his 360 degrees shots, he deflated the bowling attack scoring boundaries at will. The duo brought down the equation to 36 off 36 balls before the latter rattled along the remaining runs. Suryakumar also brought his half-century off only 26 balls to put an end to Chennai's resistance. With the win, Hardik Pandya's MI avenged the loss they suffered against CSK in their opener.

For Chennai, who have now lost six out of eight games, the only positive was their intent to give chances to youngsters, who can carry the legacy of the team in future.

Brief scores: CSK 176/5 in 20 ovs (Jadeja 53 n.o, Shivam 50, Bumrah 2/25) **lost to** MI 177/1 in 15.4 ovs (Rohit 76 n.o, Suryakumar 68 n.o).

Kohli scores half-century as clinical RCB continue away winning streak

AGENCIES @ Mullanpur

DEVDUTT Padikkal blossomed under the able guidance of Virat Kohli as Royal Challengers Bengaluru exacted sweet revenge on Punjab Kings keeping their away win record intact with a seven-wicket victory in an IPL match here. Having lost the rain-curtailed home match to Punjab on Friday, RCB turned the tables within less than 48 hours, chasing down a target of 158 without much ado in just 18.5 overs to enter the top four in the points table. Southpaw Padikkal (61 off 35 balls) scored his first IPL half-century in 22 innings while chases like these have been a cakewalk for someone of Kohli's caliber as he played second fiddle for the better part of his innings.

He finished with a flourish, remaining unbeaten on 73 off 54 balls. The duo added 103 in 11.3 overs by playing textbook cricketing strokes with minimal risk. It was Kohli, who started off with a signature pull off Arshdeep Singh where the rolling of wrists kept the ball down. He got an able partner in Padikkal, who hit fours and sixes in equal measure. The best of the lot from Padikkal certainly was the lofted one off Marco Jansen where the bat swing was picture perfect.

RCB's Virat Kohli hit an unbeaten 73 off 54 balls on Sunday | AFP

Against spinners, he used the depth of the crease to rock back. Padikkal was finally gone trying to got for a fifth six off left-arm spinner Harpreet Brar's bowling but by then RCB had all but pocketed the game.

Brief scores: PBKS 157/6 in 20 ovs (Prabhsimran 33, Inglis 29, Shashank 31 n.o, Jansen 25 n.o, Krunal 2/25, Suyash 2/26) **lost to** RCB 159/3 in 18.5 ovs (Kohli 73 n.o, Padikkal 61).

Liverpool close in on title, Leicester relegated

AGENCIES @ London

TRENT Alexander-Arnold fired Liverpool to the brink of the Premier League title as his late strike sealed a 1-0 win that relegated Leicester after Arsenal's 4-0 rout of Ipswich delayed the leaders' coronation on Sunday.

Arne Slot's side could have clinched a record-equalling 20th English title with a combination of an Arsenal loss and a victory at the King Power Stadium. Liverpool fulfilled their half of the equation, but second-placed Arsenal were not so obliging earlier in the afternoon.

The Gunners' stroll at Portman Road meant Liverpool kicked off still needing six points from their last six games to seal a first title since 2020. Thanks to Alexander-Arnold's match-winning contribution after coming off the bench, Liverpool are 13 points clear of Arsenal with five games left for both teams.

The Reds will seal the title if Arsenal lose at home to Crystal Palace on Wednesday or if they beat Tottenham at Anfield on April 27.

It looked like being a frustrating day for Liverpool as second-bottom Leicester kept them at bay despite a host of chances for the visitors. Slot's men finally made the breakthrough in the 76th minute when Alexander-Arnold lashed home the rebound from close-range after Mohamed Salah and Diogo Jota both hit the crossbar.

With speculation mounting that Alexander-Arnold will join Real Madrid when his contract expires at the end of the season, it was notable that the England right-back embarked on a wild celebration of his winner.

Results: Fulham **1-2** Chelsea; Man United **0-1** Wolves; Ipswich **0-4** Arsenal; Leicester **0-1** Liverpool.

Liverpool's Trent Alexander-Arnold (R) celebrates on Sunday | AP

EXPRESS READ

ISSF WC: Arjun bags silver, Arya finishes 5th

LIMA: Paris Olympian Arjun Babuta clinched the silver medal in the men's 10m air rifle event while Arya Borse finished fifth in the women's event in the ISSF World Cup. On Sunday, Arya combined with Rudrankksh Patil to win silver in mixed team event.

Piastri wins Saudi Arabian Grand Prix

JEDDAH: McLaren's Oscar Piastri won the Saudi Arabian Grand Prix from Red Bull polesitter Max Verstappen to lead the world championship for the first time in his career. Charles Leclerc's Ferrari completed the podium for this fifth round of the season.

Blasters beat East Bengal in Kalinga Super Cup

BHUBANESWAR: Defending champ East Bengal FC crashed out of the Kalinga Super Cup, losing 0-2 against Kerala Blasters FC at the Kalinga Stadium here. The winners, who led 1-0 at half time in the Round of 16 clash on Day 1 of the event, scored through their striker Jesus Jimenez Nunez (40th minute penalty) and American Noah Wali Sadaoui (64th).

Gukesh doesn't need to prove anything: Srinath

ASHOK VENUGOPAL @ Chennai

D Gukesh became the youngest-ever world champion in history in Singapore last year, but his achievement has not been acknowledged gleefully by players like Magnus Carlsen and Vladimir Kramnik. Now, Norwegian GM Jon Ludvig Hammer has questioned the ability of Gukesh to be the world champion for a longer period.

The main reason for these doubts is Gukesh's poor show during the Freestyle Chess Grand Slam Tour. Many former players commented that Gukesh did not play like a world champ at the Freestyle event. But GM and noted coach Srinath N backed Gukesh to come good in the upcoming tournaments and perhaps go on to defend his crown. "I don't feel any particular attempt to downplay Gukesh as the world champion in general. He is universally accepted as the world champion and there is no questioning that," said Srinath. "Gukesh doesn't particularly need to prove anything to anyone. I also haven't noticed anyone mentioning that Gukesh won the World championship by luck. As for Gukesh's results in freestyle, I think 1-2 tournaments is far too early to draw any major conclusions," pointed out the India gold-medal winning Chess Olympiad coach.

Hammer, Carlsen's second when he beat Viswanathan Anand to become a world champion for the first time in 2013, said he would be happy if Gukesh kept the title for a long time. "Gukesh certainly has the ability to keep the crown. But it will definitely not be easy and his next challenger could very well be one of his compatriots from India or from his age group. Him and his trainers will have the best idea on what he needs to defend his title," opined Srinath. Hammer had also stated that all the top players and Gukesh were on par and that the world crown could keep passing on from one to another.

Full story: newindianexpress.com

PREMIER COMPETITION

Spotlight on top guns as Fed Cup Athletics commences in Kochi

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Kochi

THE 28th National Federation Senior Athletics Championship, featuring the country's top athletes, will begin on Monday at the Maharaja's College Ground in Ernakulam. This will be the second time that the Kerala Athletic Association will be hosting the prestigious Federation meet — the previous occasion being in Kozhikode in 2021. A total of 580 athletes, including Olympians and current national record holders, will participate in the championship. Over 120 technical officials will oversee the competitions.

As the meet serves as a crucial qualifier for the Asian Athletics Championship to be held in South Korea starting May 27, some of the top athletes are expected to participate.

There are 38 finals scheduled across the event. The championship will open at 6 AM with the men's 10,000-metre race, followed by the women's event. Eight finals, including the 100 metres, will take place on the opening day. Members of the Athletics Federation of India's (AFI) selection committee will be present to evaluate performances, said Kerala Athletic Association executive vice president Mercy Kuttan. Top contenders include Amoj Jacob, Manu TS and Muhammad Anas in the 400 metres; Jabir MP in the 400m hurdles; Kishore Kumar Jena and Sachin Yadav in javelin throw; Jeswin Aldrin in long jump; Tajinderpal Singh Toor in shot put; Abdullah Aboobacker and Praveen Chithravel in triple jump; Muhammad Afsal in the 800 metres; Animesh Kujur, Gurindervir Singh, and Nitya Gandhe in the 100 metres; Jyothi Yarraji and Nithya Ramraj in the 100m hurdles; Vithya Ramraj in the 400m hurdles; Ancy Sojan and Shaili Singh in long jump; Pavithra Venkitesh and Maria Jaison in pole vault; and Sheena N V in triple jump. AFI representative Zakir Hussain said the preparations are fully complete and the competitions will be conducted as per international standards. The event will feature live broadcasting and for the first time, there will be digital electronic displays around the track.

Athletes during a practice session at the venue in Kochi on Sunday | A SANESH

XPRESS FOCUS

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IMU Campuses Offer World-Class Facilities

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- Internship and Workshop training
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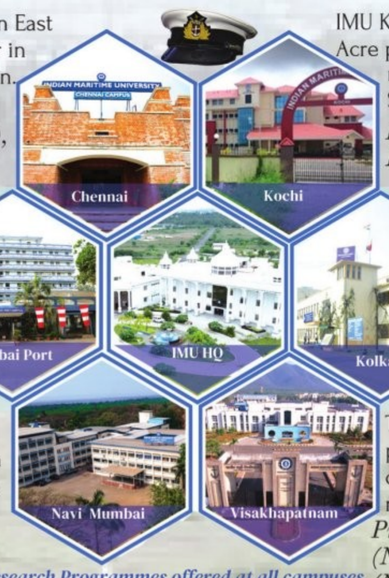
B.Sc(NS)

Capt. Radhika Menon
First Indian Female Merchant Navy officer
Received Nari Shakti Puraskar in 2022

IMU Leading the Way in Marine Research and Innovation

- **Hydrogen powered PEM Fuel Cell Ships**
  The project aims to develop core competencies and training frameworks for operating hydrogen-powered PEM fuel cell ships.
- **Bio-based vegetable oil lubricants for marine applications**
  The project focuses on developing eco-friendly, bio-based vegetable gear oil lubricants tailored for efficient and sustainable use in marine applications.
- **Autonomous Survey Craft for Inland Waterways Authority of India**
  The project aims to design and develop an autonomous survey craft to enhance hydrographic survey capabilities for inland waterways.

Headquartered along the scenic East Coast Road in Chennai, IMU's campuses feature modern classrooms equipped with audio-visual aids, e-library, simulators and laboratories for practical training. The access to hostels, mess, gym, swimming pool, club activities, recreational facilities, infirmaries, ensure a holistic learning environment



The 20-acre scenic beachfront campus on East Coast Road, Chennai, stands as a pioneer in port and shipping management education.
Programmes : DNS, B.Tech (ME), B.Sc. (NS), BBA (LRE), MBA (PSM), MBA (ITLM), MBA (PSL)

IMU Kochi Campus was inaugurated in 2009 on a 2.6 Acre plot of land on lease. The campus was relocated to a sprawling 10-acre campus in SERA, Willingdon Island in September 2016.
Programmes : B.Sc. (NS), BBA (LRE), MBA (PSM), MBA (ITLM)

The ISO 9001:2015 certified Mumbai campus, is a testament to its commitment to maintaining high standards of quality in its academic programs and facilities.
Programmes : B.Tech (ME), PGDME

IMU Kolkata Campus satisfies the need of STCW-95 Convention of IMO and has ISO-9001:2015 certification. It has become a Centre of Excellence in Marine Engineering.
Programmes : B.Tech (ME), MBA ITLM), M.Tech (MT)

The Navi Mumbai campus has a long history of training mariners and excels in providing highly skilled workforce to the maritime industry.
Programmes : DNS, B.Sc. (NS), Online MBA (MM) for CoC holders

The Visakhapatnam campus located in the picturesque hilly suburbs of Visakhapatnam city has evolved into a hub of maritime research projects.
Programmes : B.Tech (NAOE), B.Tech (NASB), BBA (ML), MBA (ITLM), M.Tech (NAOE), M.Tech (D&HE), M.Tech (EE)

Research Programmes offered at all campuses

Placement : The placement of students of IMU has been more than 80% during the last five years. Some prominent recruiters are:

transworld GROUP · msc · SYNERGY GROUP · tcs TATA CONSULTANCY SERVICES · ANGLO-EASTERN · MAERSK · WALLEM EST. 1903

Navigating the Future: IMU's Events Power Up Cadets' Potential

IMU Navi Mumbai welcomed cadets nationwide for ANGLOTHON 2025, a vibrant celebration of English proficiency and critical thinking. ANGLOTHON fostered confidence, clarity, and connection among future maritime leaders.
It reinforced IMU's commitment to holistic development beyond technical excellence.

Cadets from IMU recently visited Indira Dock for firsthand exposure to dry dock procedures and ship repair operations.
The visit offered invaluable insights into the workings of the maritime industry in a real-world setting.
Highlights included observing massive vessels like Pacific Sophia and Bunun Miracle.

'Samudra Gyanam Gyana Samudram'
Indian Maritime University
An Ocean of Opportunities

Dr. Malini V Shankar, IAS (Retd.)
Vice Chancellor, IMU

What are the opportunities in India's maritime sector, and how is the government supporting its growth?

The maritime sector in India offers opportunities in infrastructure, shipbuilding, inland waterways, maritime tourism, etc. The recent initiatives by GoI like the Sagarmala and Maritime India Vision 2030 focus on port development, multi-modal logistics parks, expanding India's fleet and enhancing inland waterway transport. By 2030, India aims to create 7 to 10 lakh jobs and increase global seafarer share from 12% to 20%.

How does the Indian Maritime University (IMU) contribute to the growth and development of India's maritime sector?

IIMU plays a pivotal role in advancing India's maritime sector by providing specialized maritime education and training through UG, PG & Research programmes in fields of marine engineering, nautical science, naval architecture, ocean engineering, shipbuilding, dredging, international transportation, logistics, port & shipping management, etc which equip students with the skills necessary to meet global maritime standards.

What is the status of Research activities at IMU?

A Centre for Policy Research in Maritime Studies (C-PRiMeS) of IMU was inaugurated by the Union Minister MoPSW Shri. Sarbananda Sonowal on 04th November 2022 at IMU HQ Chennai. The C-PRiMeS will undertake maritime studies and act as a think tank for the development of the maritime economy. Currently IMU has two core maritime related projects with DRDO, one project with TNSDA, Govt. of Tamil Nadu and four projects funded by MoPSW.

Why should a candidate consider joining the Indian Maritime University (IMU)?

IMU focuses on holistic training, professional profile development & health and wellbeing of the students. With the aid of modern digital classrooms, IMU's 6 campuses offers experiential learning, industry oriented training and offers unique opportunities like foreign tours, seminars, and conferences

Anchored in Excellence: IMU's Triumphs

The 8th Convocation of Indian Maritime University (IMU) was held on October 27, 2023, with President Droupadi Murmu presiding over the ceremony. A total of 1,944 students received their degrees.

IMU Chennai B.Tech (Marine Engineering) cadets successfully developed an indigenous electric vehicle, 'Minsara Meen'

IMU developed an autonomous survey craft to enhance hydrographic survey capabilities for inland waterways

IMU Chennai Campus, under the Tamil Nadu government's "Naan Mudhalvan" scheme, hosted TN Model School students for maritime career awareness through campus visits, faculty interaction, and a statewide webinar

IMU awarded Swachchta Pakhwada Award 2023 by MoPSW

Padma Shri Dr. P.T. Usha inaugurated the historic National Maritime Games 2025 at IMU Navi Mumbai, with the theme "Kheloge toh Khiloge." The event featured a Guard of Honour for Chief Guest Shri Shyam Jagannathan, Director General of Shipping, and was graced by industry leaders and officials.

Associate Professor E.A. Kishore from IMU Kolkata, in collaboration with Birla Corporation Ltd. secured a patent for their invention a Multipurpose Tipping Semi-Trailer for transporting Bulk Fly Ash and Bagged Cement.

IMU signed an MoU with RK Malhotra Holding Pvt. Ltd. to establish the Dr. Ravi K. Mehrotra Centre of Excellence in Maritime at the Kolkata campus. The collaboration includes a USD 1.5 million research endowment and USD 0.72 million investment for maritime innovation

In WiSTEMM 2024 conference at IMU Chennai, Ms. Michaela Küchler, the German Consul General in Chennai, emphasized the importance of reducing gender disparity in STEM and maritime sectors, by focusing on empowering women in traditionally male-dominated industries

IMU Campuses *Buzz with Vibrant Club Activities*

Robotics Club

Robofury 2.0', a thrilling RC boat race competition that challenged students to design and build their own boats thereby developing their Architectural skills

Literary Club

IMU Literary Club engages cadets through events like Treasure Hunt, Xpression 2K25, and ANGLOTHON 2025, fostering creativity and intellectual growth.

Astronomical Club

IMU's Astronomical Club engages cadets with ASTROGAZE magazine and Celestial Object Gazing events, fostering a passion for astronomy.

Birdwatching Club

At IMU, cadets are given a rare chance to connect with nature while gaining valuable insights into biodiversity through experiential learning and field exploration

Our Transformations Speak

"IMU, MPC, provided a strong platform for hands-on maritime training and in-depth theoretical knowledge, delivered by industry experts" - **DEBHARTI BHATTA**

"My professional journey began at IMU – CC, where the faculty of SMM played a pivotal role in shaping my path from a CRPF soldier to a Senior Advisory Consultant at IBM"- **PRABHU S**

IMU Campuses have fully equipped gymnasiums accessible to students for their physical fitness

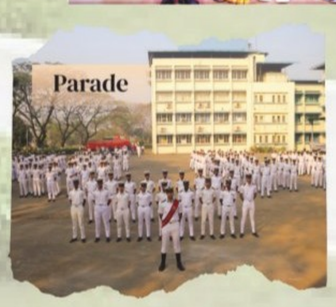
The state-of-the-art simulators ensures global standards for practical training.

IMU Chennai, Mumbai Port & Kolkata Campuses have swimming pools where students are trained for swimming & safety drills

The workshops for technical programmes enable students to develop practical problem solving skills

Students are encouraged to practice yoga for physical and mental wellbeing

Spacious playground, tennis court and indoor courts offers a healthy balance between the academics and athletics



IMU takes pride in offering regimental programmes and as a part of it Parade is conducted regularly

Workshop modules gear-up cadets for maritime industry and give exposure to practical aspects.

All IMU campuses have infirmaries/dispensaries for medical cover, in addition to accident insurance policy

IMU has conducted 9 convocations since inception. The students' hardwork is recognised by graduation certificates while rank holders are given medals.

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MONDAY

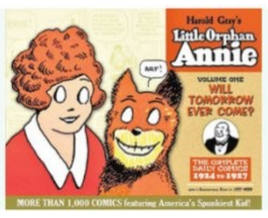
DAY'S DIARY

Broadway debut

The original production of *Annie* opened on Broadway on this day in 1977 and went on to win seven Tony Awards

THE STORY

Based on the popular Harold Gray comic strip, *Annie* tells the story of a spunky orphan girl finding a home with a New York millionaire during the Depression



CAST

The original production starred McArdle as Annie, Reid Shelton as Daddy Warbucks, Loudon as Miss Hannigan, and Sandy Faison as Grace Farrell

PRODUCTION

Following the orginal production, *Annie* returned to the Main Stem in 1997 starring Brittny Kissinger and in 2012 starring Lilla Crawford

Read this interview with actor Rachana Inder

PG 4

3.2.1...Bengalureans who have qualified to participate in the Boston Marathon are gearing up to run at the iconic running event set to kick off this evening (IST)

HEART AND sole

ANJALI RAM

FOR Murali Gaddam, principal consultant at a French bank, and a runner of 10 years, running the Boston Marathon has been a long-standing dream after taking part in numerous races across India. "Completing the seven world marathon majors is a dream for many runners and this was the perfect opportunity for me to begin the journey – especially at such a historical running tradition," he says.

For 45-year-old city-based IT professional and sportsman Bidappa KP, too, qualifying to run at the race is a personal triumph. "I used to play different sports, but I had high cholesterol and weighed around 70kg. I took it seriously in 2018 and had one goal: to qualify for the Boston Marathon and my father proud," says Bidappa.

Apart from passion, qualifying for the Boston Marathon requires immense discipline and extensive training. "The qualifying time for my category in an AIMS-certified (Association of International Marathons and Distance Races, an association of organisers of long-distance road running races) marathon is three hours five minutes; I managed to run two hours 53 minutes in the New Delhi Marathon," explains Gaddam, adding, "Boston is a tricky course, so while I'd love to chase a sub-three-hour finish. I also want to respect the course and give my best on the day."

Murali Gaddam

The most challenging part of the race is a hilly stretch called Newton Hills with Heartbreak Hill being particularly difficult to clear. "Heartbreak Hill at the 20-mile mark may be the most challenging one due to its half mile incline," explains Bidappa.

Understandably, some participants are cautious about the physical strain on their health that the challenge poses. "I have always found Heartbreak Hill the most challenging. This year I am most concerned about the steep decline in the first km of the race due to my injury," says Kumar Rao (76), who has run the marathon five times before, first at the age of 68.

Rao follows a strict training regimen to make sure he can keep going. "I find my training regimen has changed significantly from my first time. I devote more time to strength training along with five runs with at least one tempo and one long run," says Rao, adding, "The Boston Marathon requires several hill workouts specifically tailored to its challenging course profile. I did 14 weeks of training, sometimes at Lalbagh, sometimes at home on a treadmill, getting to a weekly volume of 85 to 90km."

Along with intense physical training, runners are prioritising their health, taking care to run safely. "They say a marathon begins after 30km, when the true test of fitness begins. The unique thing about Boston is that the first half is downhill. I plan to cruise, not accelerate. And when it flattens in the mid section, I'll check my heart rate. If I'm not crossing my threshold, I will accelerate. I might walk some sections depending on my body. Every 40 minutes, I plan to take a running gel and I'm carrying salt pills," explains Harsha Marigowda, a tech entrepreneur who will be running the Boston Marathon for the first time.

Apart from the challenge of it, repeat runners are looking forward to the energy of the event, as Rao explains, "The race weekend is full of interesting activities, with a chance to meet some elite runners, coaches and friends from world over. While the course is tough and requires focus, the crowd support throughout makes the time on the course fly by."

(With inputs from Aakansha Munshi)

The unique thing about Boston is that the first half is downhill. I plan to cruise, not accelerate

Harsha Marigowda, Entrepreneur

COURSE OF ACTION

Traditionally held on Patriots' Day, the third Monday in April, the Boston Marathon is one of the oldest annual marathons and is set to host its 129th edition. Every year, runners from around the world flock to Boston to challenge themselves on the iconic course which celebrates the human spirit. This marathon, set to begin at 6.50pm (IST) on April 21, is more than a historic course – it is a purpose, a dream, and a sportive challenge.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Writer Banu Mushtaq and translator Deepa Bhasthi, the voices behind the International Booker Prize shortlisted title, *Heart Lamp*, engaged in a conversation about the book at its first launch in India

ANUBHAB ROY

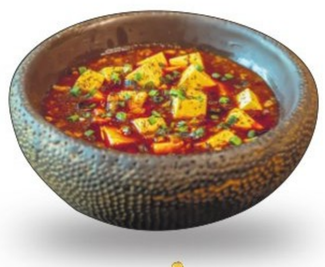
HEART Lamp (Penguin Random House India,₹399), a collection of short stories by Banu Mushtaq which has been translated from Kannada to English by Deepa Bhasthi, was recently shortlisted for the International Booker Prize, 2025. The writer-translator duo delighted a full house on Friday at Champaca Bookstore, Vasanth Nagar, with a heartfelt session on the book.

The heart of *Heart Lamp* is one that beats for 30 years – the three decades Mushtaq took to write the stories. She reveals that the blood that the heart pumps is familiar and personally drawn. "I am giving a glimpse of who I am. During the '80s, there were a lot of social movements in Karnataka, dalit and feminist movements; I am a product of those." While the anti-caste imperative was tangible in the literary scene back then, Islamophobia remained unchecked. Doubly ushered to the margins due to her gender and religion, Mushtaq had little choice but to give voice to her being. Moreover, just starting out, she would often be plagued with questions of what to write about – whose stories to document. When she asked the literary fraternity around, their responses allowed her to look inward. "Interestingly, until then, Muslim characters were depicted in black and white terms, especially by Hindu writers. I was asked to write about my contexts; and so I did. But at the same time, I didn't want to be confined within the identity of the 'Muslim woman'," she says.

Heart Lamp is almost tactile in its representation of the terrain. Sensorily robust, the book presents the sights, smells, and stories of Karnataka in all their lilts and cadences. Bhasthi, whose work in translating deserves its own praise, keeps polyphony and linguistic dialogue alive in the retention of Kannada elements in the final book. As she reveals, "We don't understand how polyphonic our languages are. The moment you step out of Bengaluru, you exist within multiple languages and dialects (outside of English) within Karnataka. It was important to keep multiple languages within the text, because none of us speaks 'proper English'. I was translating for Indian readers. I wanted them to understand the deliberate Kannada 'hum' behind it."

From savouring Peking duck against the city skyline to indulging in a Franco-Italian brunch beneath Murano chandeliers, or a Malabar feast infused with nostalgia, the city's restaurants are weaving compelling narratives

Bold New Menus in a Dynamic Dining Narrative



ASLAM GAFOOR

(The writer is a Bengaluru-based hospitality professional, food lover, and travel enthusiast)

IN a city celebrated for its inventive and ever-evolving food culture, Bengaluru continues to elevate the dining landscape with a season of bold menus, thoughtful reinterpretations of classics, and immersive culinary experiences. From savouring Peking duck against the backdrop of the city skyline to indulging in a Franco-Italian brunch beneath glittering Murano chandeliers, or relishing a Malabar feast infused with nostalgia and tradition, the city's restaurants are weaving a compelling, dynamic narrative.

A Franco-Italian Feast at Le Cirque Signature

Leading this wave of culinary refinement is Le Cirque Signature at The Leela Palace Bengaluru, which has introduced an elegant Sunday brunch series fusing French finesse with Italian generosity. Curated by Sous Chef Ranjan Rao – whose impressive career includes stints with Michelin-starred legends Yannick Alléno and Stéphane Raimbault – the new brunch menu is a sophisticated showcase of technique and indulgence.

Guests begin their afternoon at a sprawling grazing table, laden with ceviche, crudos, house-cured salmon, artisanal charcuterie, and creamy burrata, accompanied by warm, crusty breads. The experience is heightened by live stations offering freshly crafted black truffle pappardelle, silky mascarpone gnocchi, lamb loin with black garlic fondant potatoes, and Himalayan trout paired with orange-braised fennel.

Dessert is an equally elaborate affair, featuring timeless favourites like tiramisu and creme brûlée alongside mango opera, dark chocolate truffles, and handcrafted macarons. The restaurant's elegant interiors, with their ochre tones, ebony accents, and shimmering Murano chandeliers, provide a suitably luxurious backdrop. Held on the second and fourth Sunday of each month, the brunch offers both indoor sophistication and alfresco serenity within The Leela's manicured gardens.

Chef Sheong Wong's Return to Far & East

Another noteworthy highlight this season is the return of Chef Sheong Wong to Far & East, the signature pan-Asian restaurant at Four Seasons Hotel Bengaluru. A respected figure in Chinese culinary circles with over two decades of experience across India and Southeast Asia, Chef Wong brings a fresh, contemporary interpretation to the restaurant's new menu, combining Cantonese and Sichuan classics with modern sensibilities.

"My previous tenure here was an enriching journey of discovery," notes Chef Wong, saying, "The all-new menu aims to surprise our guests." Among the highlights is his famed Peking duck, presented as a delightful table side ritual with crisp lacquered skin, tender meat, warm pancakes, leeks, and sweet bean sauce.

Other standout dishes include a richly-spiced Malaysian lamb shank rendang and charcoal-hued seafood dumplings filled with prawn, crabmeat, and tobiko. To further elevate the dining calendar, the hotel will host a special dim sum pop-up till April 27, featuring Chef Ng Meng Loong of Michelin-selected Yun House at Four Seasons Kuala Lumpur.

Tijouri: Unearthing Forgotten Indian Flavours

For diners seeking a connection to India's culinary past, Tijouri at Radisson Blu Atria Bengaluru continues its mission of spotlighting regional micro-cuisines. Conceived by Kaushik Raju and Sanithra Raju, the restaurant has become a platform for India's culinary custodians, hosting immersive, memory-led experiences that celebrate lesser-known recipes.

Among its recent highlights was an authentic Andhra breakfast by home cook Anuradha Chippada, affectionately known as Anu Aunty, who dished out nostalgia on a plate with soft pooris, onion vadas, mutton curry, and gasagase payasam.

Later this month, on April 26 and 27, Chef Gautam Krishnankutty will present A Malabar Journey, a menu inspired by his childhood visits to Kannur. The offering will feature cherished dishes such as neypathal with Malabar chicken curry, vellayappam paired with chemmeen ulli theeyal, and a celebratory mutton biryani – each course steeped in memory, tradition, and the rich culinary heritage of Kerala's Malabar Coast.

South Indian Spice Meets Cantonese Precision at Yauatcha

In a refreshing cross-cultural experiment, Yauatcha Bengaluru pays homage to Ugadi, Karnataka's New Year, with a limited-edition menu that seamlessly marries South Indian spice with contemporary Cantonese technique. Available through April, the menu reinterprets local flavours through a modern Chinese lens.

Among the highlights are yam bean millet dumplings inspired by the texture of ragi mudde, an asparagus and mooli stir-fry reminiscent of mullangi sambar, and seafood dim sum enlivened with raw garlic oil. The pork ribs dusted with togarashi and curry leaf powder add a welcome earthiness, while the crispy chicken in orange lemon sauce offers a citrus-kissed contrast to the spice-forward dishes.

To complete the experience, the beverage menu offers refreshing summer coolers such as the Mango Chilli – a piquant blend of fresh mango, lime, and jalapeño vinegar – and South Summer, a fragrant concoction of mint, coriander, and curry leaf.

CITY READ

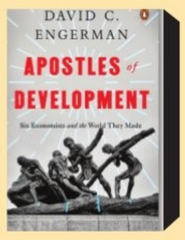
Footwear brand offers a limited-period chance to win IPL match tickets

Trends Footwear recently launched a new offer called Power Play Contest, a limited-period promotion. Every walk-in customer who shops for ₹3,000 or more in a single bill at participating stores across the city gets a chance to win exclusive couple match tickets to this cricket season's biggest games along with gift vouchers. Eligible customers will have to enter a lucky draw which will determine the prizes they can avail. With this offer, the footwear brand aims to elevate the shopping experience of their customers.

Mysore Maharaja to attend university alumni event today

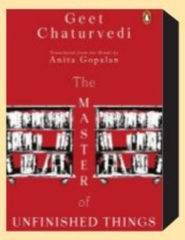
Vijaya College, Basavanagudi will be hosting Guruvandana, an alumni meet on April 21 from 3pm onwards which will be attended by the Maharaja of Mysore Yaduveer Krishnadatta Chamaraja Wadiyar as the chief guest. Guests of honour include KR Somashekhar, managing trustee, Sarvamangala Memorial Trust; Suchendra Prasad, regional president, Samskara Bharathi; and TA Balakrishna Adiga, secretary, BHS Higher Education Society.

BOOK NOOK



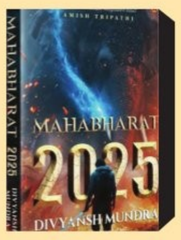
Apostles of Development
by David C Engerman

It uncovers the pivotal role six economists played in shaping global poverty solutions after WWII. A compelling read on how Global South leaders redefined progress, challenging traditional views on development and inequality.



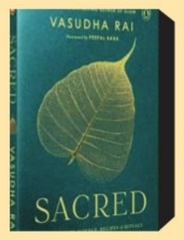
The Master of Unfinished Things
by Geet Chaturvedi (Translated by Anita Gopalan)

An English translation of the Hindi work, *Adhuri Cheezon Ka Devta*. Through his lyricism and poetic style, Chaturvedi brings to life a compilation of genre-defying stories, poems, diary entries into an awe-inspiring memoir which grapples with questions on identity, purpose, love and art.



Mahabharat 2025
by Divyansh Mundra

The mythological meets the modern in an electrifying saga of ancestral curses and buried legacies. The epic doesn't begin in a palace or a battlefield – it begins in the cold morning mist of Rishikesh, where an 18-year-old watches his grandfather walk into the Ganga and vanish forever. That moment changes everything.



Sacred
by Vasudha Rai

Sacred is an urgent and lyrical exploration of India's sacred flora, drawing from ancient rituals, folklore, and modern science to remind readers that divinity is rooted in the natural world.

HOLDING ON TO INNOCENCE

Visitors share a moment of joy playing with a science exhibit at Jawaharlal Nehru Planetarium, Sankey Road | ALLEN EGENUSE J

QUICKFIX

SHRIKHAND

INGREDIENTS

- **Full-fat fresh curd:** 4 cups
- **Cardamom powder:** 1 tsp
- **Sugar:** 1/2 cup
- **Milk:** 1/4 tbsp
- **Saffron:** 1 long strand
- **A pinch of salt**

METHOD

- Hang curd that is not too sour in a cheesecloth/muslin for 8 to 12 hours.
- Mix hung curd with sugar, cardamom powder, and salt.
- Soak saffron in warm milk and add to the curd mixture.
- Mix well until sugar dissolves and the mixture is smooth.
- Refrigerate and serve chilled with puris or as a dessert.

Contributed by **Mangala Virnak,** Pune

ASK AN XPERT

DR VIVEK ARORA

The expert is a senior veterinarian, Dr Gandhi's Pet Clinic, Delhi

My two-year-old parrot plucks its own feathers, especially during weather-changing months. Is weather a stressor? How to deal with it?

Weather changes can indeed be a source of stress for parrots, as they're sensitive to variations in temperature, humidity, and daylight. Feather plucking during these times may indicate discomfort or anxiety. To support your parrot, try to maintain a stable environment with consistent temperature and humidity. Ensure they have enough mental stimulation through toys, interaction, and socialisation. A secure, comfortable space and a well-balanced diet can also help alleviate stress. If the plucking persists or worsens, it's a good idea to consult a vet for further advice.

FITBIT

ADHO MUKHA SVANASANA VARIATION KAPOTA PADA

(DOWNWARD FACING DOG POSE VARIATION PIGEON LEGS)

This is a graceful fusion of two iconic yoga postures, combining the strength and alignment of Adho Mukha Svanasana with the deep stretch of Ardha Kapotasana. Since it's an asymmetrical pose, practising it on both sides is essential to ensure balanced effects on the body. The pigeon stretch opens tight hips, releasing built-up tension, as the hips are often where mental stress manifests physically.

STEPS

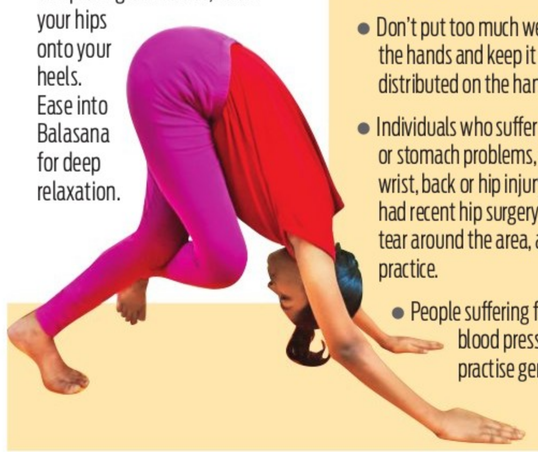
- Start in Bharmanasana (Table Top Pose. Maintain the natural pace of the body.
- Exhale, tuck the toes in, lift the knees off the ground, and raise your hips high towards the ceiling to form an inverted 'V' shape with your body. Keep your head relaxed, between your arms, with your gaze directed toward your legs or navel.
- Inhale, lift your heels off the floor, and come up onto your toes. Bend your knees a little, reaching your hips up and back.
- Exhale, bring your right knee toward your chest, shifting your weight onto your left leg for balance. Slowly rotate your right hip outward and rest your right ankle on your left knee, with your right knee pointing to the side. Keep your right foot relaxed and steady in the final pose.
- Stay here for 3-5 mindful breaths. Increase the holding time with regular practise.
- Exhale, bring your right foot back to its starting position, returning to Adho Mukha Svanasana knees Bent.
- Repeat the pose on the other side.
- Release the pose, return to Adho Mukha Svanasana after completing both sides, relax your hips onto your heels. Ease into Balasana for deep relaxation.

BENEFITS

- Strengthens and lengthens all the muscles of the body.
- Brings blood flow to the brain, which helps in increasing the memory and makes the mind sharp.
- Helps prevent Carpal Tunnel Syndrome.
- Strengthens the arms and shoulders.
- Helps improve focus.
- Relieves lower and middle back pain.
- Strengthens the back and stretches the spine.
- Tones the waist and abdomen.
- Helps in relieving stress and anxiety.
- Extends the legs and the crotch muscles.
- It is useful for the organs of the guts and the contraceptive organs.
- A good asana for those who need to ace Padmasana (lotus pose).
- It widens the chest and bears and can revise postural deformities.
- Recommended for people with high blood pressure, sciatica, infertility, insomnia and sinusitis.

LIMITATIONS

- Do warm up before practising this pose.
- Avoid eating any meal at least 3-4 hours before practising yoga. Don't strain while lifting the hips and torso.
- Don't put too much weight on the hands and keep it evenly distributed on the hands and feet.
- Individuals who suffer from cardiac or stomach problems, ankle, knee, wrist, back or hip injury, and have had recent hip surgery or muscle tear around the area, avoid this practice.
- People suffering from high blood pressure must practise gently.



By N Elumalai, PhD Scholar (Yoga Science) at Meenakshi Academy of Higher Education & Research, Chennai

EXPRESS CONNECT

HAVE A RECIPE OR ART WORK TO SHARE, OR A QUESTION TO ASK?

@XpressBengaluru/@tniefeatures
bengalurucityexpress@gmail.com
@xpress_bengaluru

WHATWHENWHYWHERE

Hand Painting

Get ready to use your hands and your creativity to paint your very own masterpiece on wood using texture and acrylic paints. Take home a beautiful artwork with loads of memories. All materials will be provided.

WHEN: April 21, 11.30am
WHERE: Art Beat, HSR Layout
DETAILS: allevents.in

Art Exhibition

Join curator Khushi Bansal who will elaborate on the process and artistry of Ravikumar Kashi at the exhibition 'We don't end at our edges'. Immerse yourself in the exhibit's intricate paper installations and learn more about the artworks.

WHEN: April 22, 5pm
WHERE: Museum of Art and Photography, Kasturba Road
DETAILS: map-india.org

Healing Hours

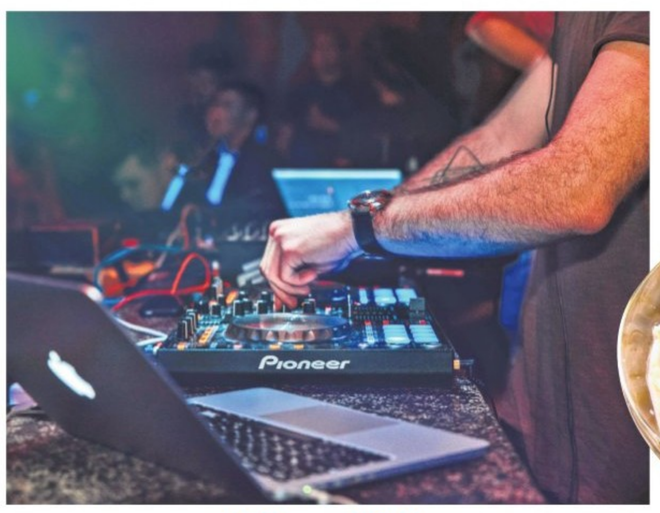
Have you been feeling a bit overwhelmed or restless? Here's an event where you can pour your heart out to strangers and be heard without judgement. Connect with a supportive wellness advisor and meet people who are likely to have dealt with similar circumstances.

WHEN: April 22, 6.30pm
WHERE: Odyssey Vibes, BTM Layout
DETAILS: bookmyshow.com

Sip & Smile

Experience an exclusive, all-access tour of a winery followed by a wine-tasting session where you can unwind with a glass or two at a tasting room which overlooks the vineyards and has panoramic views. After the session, grab lunch at one of their restaurants!

WHEN: April 21, 11am
WHERE: Rico Wine Park & Vineyards, Yelahanka
DETAILS: district.in



Bollywood Night

Join in for a Bollywood night of music by DJ Vcky and DJ Veejay, who will set the mood with their dynamic beats. Guests can enjoy a festive winter-themed atmosphere while dancing the night away and indulging in delicious food and beverages. **WHEN:** April 21, 8pm
WHERE: NoLimmits Lounge and Club, Brigade Road **DETAILS:** highape.com

Comedy Nights

Take your friends along to be a part of brewing fresh jokes at an event where surprising line-ups await you. Sort your weekday blues with a 90-minute comedy show where the best comedians of the city meet under one roof to make you laugh!

WHEN: April 22, 8.30pm
WHERE: Klayworkz Barista, JP Nagar
DETAILS: district.in

Authentic Aromas

Indulge in the authentic flavours of Kerala with a premium dining experience curated by Chef Sara Jacob Nair. Highlights include red cowpeas cutlet, kizhi porotta with raw jackfruit peralan, mushroom thoran rice with mango curry, appam and nasrani lamb stew, Malabar chicken wings, and more.

WHEN: April 21 onwards, 7pm
WHERE: Renaissance Bengaluru Race Course Hotel, Madhava Nagar
CALL: 98861 95617

ARTCORNER

OCEAN WHISPERERS

Jayasri Burman's watercolour painting 'Ocean Whisperers' is about the cosmic connection of stars and water.

Colours can bring us peace in the most unexpected ways. As World Art Day passed us by, recently, we look at artists and art organisations who use the canvas to drive a global change

Hope in hues

JITHA KARTHIKEYAN

APRIL 15 was the birthday of one of the most remarkable artists in history – Leonardo da Vinci (yes, the Mona Lisa man!). And what better date to celebrate the impact of art in our lives and the contribution of artists? In these volatile times that we live in, where global political situations espouse hate founded on our differences and nations go to war while wiping out human lives mercilessly, art has a bigger role to play in healing wounds and uniting the human race. Here's a look at artists and art organisations who have been striving to create a culture of peace amid our troubled times.

THE COLOURS OF PEACE IN AFRICA

PRESIDENTIAL elections in Kenya have often been controversial and violent. Looting of property, arson, and murders have often been the norm, especially post election. Given these complexities and the fragility of such situations, artists in the region have adopted clever tools and tactics to build peace once again. With slums being the most vulnerable areas, here's how artist Soloman Muyundo did his bit. When the Orange Democratic Movement lost its stronghold of Kibera in the elections, the residents protested and resorted to rioting. The artist, at first, painted the symbol of the party on most public walls which served as a deterrent. Later, armed with his paints and brushes, he wrote messages like 'Peace Wanted Alive' and 'Keep Peace' everywhere, which had a tremendous persuasive power when all negotiations failed. Although the violence ended with the formation of a coalition movement, many parts of Kenya were in ruins and the people were traumatised. A group of artists decided then, to make a museum out of the debris so that it could transform into a space of healing for the children. The project was initiated in February 2008 and went on for a few weeks, when the affected young ones were given art materials to express themselves through painting. What began as a dark recollection of their painful memories of the destruction, soon progressed to visions of how they wished the future to be. The project ended with hope filling the hearts that once held wounds.

CONFRONTING WAR

CHILDREN who have lived through wars often bear the deep scars of the bloodshed they have witnessed, for their entire lifetimes. War Toys, a non-profit organisation, uses art to help these children cope emotionally. Trauma sometimes makes it difficult for children to express their anguish verbally. Non-verbal art therapy thus allows them to share their stories of unimaginable horror and communicate their experiences. War Toys has also introduced educational initiatives like ensuring conversations around war in fun ways. The voices of these children have been further amplified by collaborating with artists, designers, and photographers to produce artworks that would reach a global audience. The organisation has meaningfully worked with hundreds of children who have been affected by war in conflict-torn regions like Iraq, Ukraine, Israel, Syria, Lebanon, and the Gaza Strip.

JOINING HANDS AS ONE

CELEBRATING diversity is at the core of the Global Art Project for Peace and this is how they do it: participants who submit their works of art on the subject of peace and goodwill are featured at an art exhibition in their local community. The Global Art Project later matches the participants for an international exchange, either group to group or individual to individual. Their artworks are sent to the chosen receiver, thereby leading to simultaneous exchanges of messages of peace from cultures all around the world. The receiving community also exhibits the artworks, thus allowing people to understand that love and friendship are universal longings. Nominated for the UNESCO prize, the project has involved participants from 95 countries!

ONE FOR THE WORLD

ART for The World (AFTW), a non-governmental organisation associated with the United Nations, is on a mission t6o encourage solidarity and tolerance through the universal language of art. Based in Geneva, Switzerland, it was founded in 1995 by Swiss curator Adelina von Fürstenberg, to promote human rights by collaborating with the artist community. The organisation holds curated art exhibitions in unconventional spaces like historical monuments, monasteries, stadiums, madrasas, and many sites that are not part of the traditional art circuit. One of its important exhibitions titled Meditations, was held in 1997, and featured several renowned international artists, including Indian artist Anish Kapoor. The 1998 travelling exhibition, The Edge of Awareness, crossed to the shores of Delhi. In 2000, a project called Playgrounds and Toys, built playgrounds designed by artists for refugee children in India, Armenia, and the United Kingdom. In the decades since its existence, AFTW has embarked on various projects that used art to address issues like health, women empowerment and more. AFTW has also produced films to call attention to the links that bind the nations of the world both historically and culturally, sending out a loud message of oneness that is needed today.

As we despair that the world and the values that we hold onto dearly are crumbling with each passing day, it is heartening indeed to know that art will always provide that silver lining of hope to surmount the darkest clouds.

INTO A VIVID MAZE OF ADVENTURE

(This economics graduate spends her leisure time preparing for the zombie apocalypse)

I'VE lost count of all the RPGs that start with the lead character slowly regaining their senses, after surviving a shipwreck. And considering that I've played enough of these, I feel like the sentence "I woke up as a God-like diplomat to find a mushroom-associated epidemic gripping the lands" is hardly the first time I've said it.

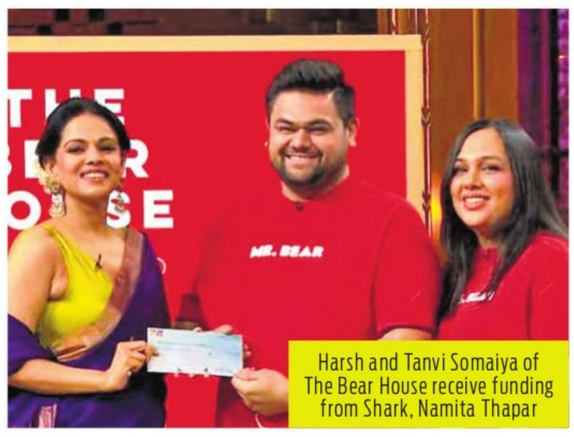
Don't get me wrong – I'm not taking a stab at the new RPG *Avowed*. In fact, playing it has made me understand why I wasn't obsessed at all with *Baldur's Gate 3*. *Avowed* is a friendlier RPG than *BG3*, if you're exceptionally impatient, and cannot understand turn-based combat. *Avowed*'s traditional hack-and-slash style of fighting can make you feel a bit uncoordinated, but also nostalgic for the *Skyrim* aesthetic that been missing for very long. It also comes with a long chore list that takes you to the different ends of this fantasy land. What's great about all of this?

The game starts with the main character's mission in the Living Lands, which places me right in the middle of the Dreamscourge (mushroom illness?) epidemic. To make my way to the primary point of contact of my mission, I must wade through conversations with the locals and take their help in fighting off a few lizards and bears. In the process, I became acquainted with the political situation, the warring factions, the latest gossip on the people in power, and so on. I also found some questionable berries for consumption, and weapons for fighting the monsters and armed lizards. This brings me to one of the best parts of the game: combat. It is a super beginner-friendly intro to a *Dungeons and Dragons* style mechanic, where you can build on your skills to improve performance of a specific type of weaponry. And if you prefer a face-to-face approach, you might favour upgrading swords that you find along the way. There are many styles of combat, and selecting a specific character type at the beginning doesn't stop your chances at trying at all of them. I personally liked holding my wand in one hand, and raining fires on armoured wild bears. I mostly set things around it aflame because my aim was so bad, but I enjoyed the idea of that combat choice. Upgrades and useful items are not super easy to come by, which also makes every choice to fight precious. However, since this game is more story-first, the combat stays welcome for just the entirety of the main mission.

What can I tell you about the story that doesn't spoil anything significant? I'll tell you three things of which only two are true. First: a mysterious crystalline substance emitting some colourful gas kept trying to talk to my character. Second: my character chooses to befriend a large lizard, which then double-crosses her halfway through the game. Third: my character interacts with one of the important 'gods' in this universe.

RPGs like *Avowed* are amongst the only bastions of good single-player adventures. It's currently available on PC and Xbox, and comes free with the Xbox Game Pass.

(The writer's views are personal)



Harsh and Tanvi Somaiya of The Bear House receive funding from Shark, Namita Thapar

Fin-tastic pitch

City-based startup which secured an investment of ₹3 crore on *Shark Tank* season 4, speaks to *CE* on their pitch and building upon their initial failure

ANJALI RAM

STARTING a business from scratch to building it is a task that is synonymous with nurturing a child of one's own. Starting from the baby steps, the journey is filled with milestones often met with challenges. One such story is of Harsh and Tanvi Somaiya, the co-founders of city-based startup, The Bear House, a men's clothing brand: they recently impressed the judges on season 4 of *Shark Tank*, and secured an investment of ₹3 crore from one of the judges, Namita Thapar.

Reflecting on the experience on the show, Harsh says, "What inspired the judge was how we scaled the brand, coming from a failure of our previous brand, Bloomcraft, which I would like deem a learning curve. When we spoke about our journey, the judges were amazed at our dedication, making sure that we succeeded building the brand profitably from day one."

As Harsh reflects on the duo's journey further, it's clear that their passion and commitment have been instrumental in their success. "Tanvi was seven months pregnant during the pitch interview for the show, as it was a rule for both the founders to be present there. Kudos to her for coming to Mumbai for the interview," he shares proudly. Despite the challenges, the entrepreneurs were able to focus on growing their brand and this dedication paid off, as the brand secured a big deal of investment. For the Somaiyas, going to the show was always a dream to be achieved. "The only reason we wanted to go on Shark Tank was to create our own insurance by having those sharks – the best advisors – on our board, so that we never saw a failure phase ever again," he says.

The show has undoubtedly made an eventful change in their professional and personal journey, evident in his recounting of the winning moment. "I wanted to make sure that I bring in experience and expertise, and take proper guidance before making big decisions," he says, adding, "Getting those sharks on board, because of the experience they carry and the amount of help we can take from them – we cannot put a price on it."

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS **CLASSIFIEDS**

PUBLIC NOTICE
CHANGE OF NAME

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **HARISH H** R/at No.3, 2nd Floor, 1st Cross,Gangamma Layout, Guddadahalli, R T Nagar Post, Bengaluru- 560032 have changed my name to **HARISH KUMAR HEBBALA RANGASWAMY** vide affidavit dated: 19/04/2025 Before Notary **Sivakumara.M.N** Bangalore

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **ANJALI ARYAN**, daughter of Rajender Prasad, resident of H No. 09, Sri Ram Niwas, Opposite to Gangamma Temple, Gangamma Circle, Jalahalli, Bengaluru, Karnataka – 560013, have changed my name from **ANJALI ARYAN** to **ANJALI SHARMA**, vide Affidavit Dated 17-04-2025 Before Advocate and Notary **S PRAKASH**, Reg No. 7865/09 Bangalore Karnataka.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **VINOTH JOHNNY JESUDOSS MOHAN ALEXANDER**, S/o MOHAN ALEXANDER, aged about 45 years, R/at Flat No.207, SLV Haritage Complex, 5th Main Road, Jagadish Nagar, Thippasandra, Bengaluru North, Bengaluru, Karnataka-560075, have changed my name to **VINOTH JOHNNYJESUDOSS**, vide affidavit dated: 19.04.2025 before Notary **Meer Hassan**, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **POOJA KALAJE**, D/o Prakash Kalaje, residing at No.201, Arizona meadows, No.18, K Veeranna Layout, Thindlu, Bangalore - 560097, do hereby declare that, I have changed my name from **POOJA PRAKASH KALAJE** to **POOJA KALAJE**. Henceforth, I shall be known and called as **POOJA KALAJE** only, vide affidavit dated 19/04/2025 sworn before advocate and notary K.C. Pemmaiah, at Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **RAVIRAJGOUDA S PATIL**, S/o, Shankargouda Y Patil, aged 50 years, R/at, Mantri Alpyne, Flat D-303, Uttarahalli Main Road, Near Pattalamma Temple, Banashankari 5th Stage, Bengaluru-560061, have changed my name from **RAVIRAJGOUDA PATIL** (Old Name) to **RAVIRAJGOUDA S PATIL** (New Name), vide Affidavit dated:19-04-2025, sworn before Advocate & Notary, **S.R. Thulasikrishna**, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, ARUNASHREEDEVI, W/o. Sri.B. Ananth Ram Singh, aged about 42 years, residing at No.216, 1st Floor, 4th Main, 5th Cross, Sriniva sanagara, Banashankari, Bengaluru - 560 050, have changed my name from **UMA BAI.B.** to **ARUNASHREEDEVI,** vide affidavit dated 17/4/2025 sworn to before P.N.Nagesha Advocate and Notary Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **VEERENDRA MANNAN PUGAZHENDI JAYAPAUL** R/at No.265, 14th Cross, Indiranagar 2nd Stage, Bengaluru- 560038 have changed my name to **VEERENDRA MANNAN PUGAZHENDI** vide affidavit dated:19/04/2025 Before Notary **Sivakumara.M.N** Bangalore

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **Mr. ABILASH UTTHAM L**, S/o Lakshmipathi P, aged about 35 years, R/at No. 7, 7th Cross Road, Near Raghavendra Temple, Jai Bharath Nagar, Bangalore-560 033 do hereby declare that both the names i.e. **ABILASH KUMAR L** and **ABILASH UTTHAM L** are one and the same and refers to me only, now I have changed my name to **ABILASH UTTHAM L**, henceforth I shall be known and called as **ABILASH UTTHAM L** for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 4-4-2025, sworn before Advocate and Notary **D.S. CHANDRAKANTH** at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **RAJASHEKHAR JAYANT WATWE,** aged about 70 years, S/o. Jayanth Keshav Watwe, residing at #290, 2nd Main, Opp Mini Forest, J.P.Nagar, 3rd Phase, Bengaluru 560078, Karnataka, have changed my name to **RAJSHEKAR JAYANT WATWE**, vide affidavit dated: 19.04.2025 before Notary **Gangaraju .B. N.** Bengaluru

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **NELLIKAR RAJENDRA JAIN**, Aged about 47 years, (D.O.B. : 20.05.1978) S/o. Ratnavarma Poovani, presently residing at Flat No. 102, SLV Aishaanvi Enclave Apartment, 9th Cross, 4th Main, 4th Block, HBR Layout, Bengaluru - 560 043, Karnataka, India, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **R.P. RAJENDRA** to **NELLIKAR RAJENDRA JAIN** vide affidavit dated 19.04.2025 sworn to before S. Venkatasubba Reddy, Advocate & Notary Public, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **ROOPA R PATIL**, W/O, Ravirajgouda S Patil, aged 46 years, R/at, Mantri Alpyne, Flat D-303, Uttarahalli Main Road, Near Pattalamma Temple, Banashankari 5th Stage, Bengaluru-560061, have changed my name from **ROOPA RAVIRAJGOUDA PATIL** (Old Name) to **ROOPA R PATIL** (New Name), vide Affidavit dated:19-04-2025, sworn before Advocate & Notary, **S.R. Thulasikrishna**, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, BHARATHI.S, W/o Sivakumar.D, aged about 44 years, Residing at No.3, Rethesh Nilaya, Abbigere, Lakshmipura Main Road, Behind Rajalakshmi Hospital, Sapthagiri Enclave, Vidyaranyapura, Bengaluru North, Bengaluru - 560097, I declare that my husband below mentioned both names **SHIVAKUMAR D** and **SIVAKUMAR D** belong to one and the same person i.e., my husband. I declare that, my husband correct name is **SIVAKUMAR D.,** vide affidavit dated 17/4/2025 sworn to before G.Dayananda Advocate and Notary Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **ADITYA NITYANAND PANDIT**, S/o Nityanand Pandit, aged about 41 years, R/at Flat No.B801, Krishna Prakash Apts., 16th Main, Behind A2B, BTM Stage 1, Aicobo Nagar, Bengaluru-560 068 do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **ADITYA PANDIT** to **ADITYA NITYANAND PANDIT**, henceforth I shall be known and called as **ADITYA NITYANAND PANDIT** for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 18th April 2025, sworn before Advocate and Notary **D.K. RAMESHAPPA** at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **Smt. YASHODHA**, W/o No. 2754470X, Ex-Sepoy Late Raju presently residing at #549, 4th Main, 4th Cross, Vijayananda Nagar, Bengaluru, Karnataka-560096 have changed my name from **YASHODHA** to **YASHODHAMMA**, vide Affidavit dated 17/04/2025 before **R. Basavaraja**, Advocate & Notary, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **No. 14385893H** Ex-Hav **Basavaraj B** presently residing at Main Road, Mogalahalli, Post Kondlahalli, Molakalamuru Taluk, Chitrdurga Dist, Karnataka have changed my daughter's name from **TEJUSHREE B** to **TEJASHREE B** vide Affidavit dated 17/04/2025 before **Chandrashekharappa .T** Advocate & Notary, Molakalmuru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **SHIVASHANKAR SHRIKANTH DHAVAN**, Aged about 30 years, S/o. Shreekant, Sali Oni Katakol Ramdurg, Belgaum - 591114, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **SHIVASHANKAR DHAVAN** to **SHIVASHANKAR SHRIKANTH DHAVAN** vide affidavit dated 19.04.2025 sworn to before B.M. Chandrashekar, Advocate & Notary Public, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, Mr.VINOD KUMAR, son of Mr. Ramachander, aged about 44 years, residing at #94, Flat No.001, Sri Sai Kuteera Building, 2nd Block, BTM Layout 4th Stage, Vijaya Bank Layout, Bangalore-560076, have changed my daughter's name from **NIHARIKA V to NIHARIKA V SUTHAR** vide affidavit dated: 18/04/2025, sworn before Notary Public, Mohammed Hussian K., Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **ADITYA PRATHIMB** son of Rajender Prasad resident of H No. 09, Sri Ram Niwas, Opposite to Gangamma Temple, Gangamma Circle, Jalahalli, Bengaluru, Karnataka – 560013, have changed my name from **ADITYA PRATHIMB** to **ADITYA SHARMA,** vide Affidavit Dated 17-04-2025 Before Advocate and Notary **S PRAKASH,** Reg No. 7865/09 Bangalore Karnataka.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **Mrs. SHAHEE,** R/at No. 301, Wilson Manor Apartments, 13th Cross, Near Brand Factory, Wilson Garden, Bangalore-560 027 do hereby declare that I have changed my son's name from **MOHAMMED MUHTASHIM** to **MOHAMMAD MOHTASHHIM,** henceforth he shall be known and called as **MOHAMMAD MOHTASHHIM** for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 18th April 2025, sworn before Advocate and Notary **MOHAMMED HUSSAIN .K** at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **ZOHA FATIMA NISHAN HAIDER KHAN** (Old Name), aged about 28 years, W/o. AGHA ZAFAR ABBAS ALAVI, RESIDING AT NO.183/C, 17TH-E-MAIN ROAD, KORAMANGALA 5TH-BLOCK, K.H.B. COLONY, BENGALURU SOUTH, BENGALURU-560095, KARNATAKA, declare that I have changed my name from **ZOHA FATIMA NISHAN HAIDER KHAN** (Old Name) to **ZOHA FATIMA ALAVI** (New Name), henceforth I shall be known and called as **ZOHA FATIMA ALAVI** (New Name) for all my personal, official & legal purpose, vide Affidavit dated : 19/04/2025 before Notary **GANGARAJU.B.N.** at BENGALURU

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **ANUMANTH RAO K (ANUMANTH RAO KONDAIAH)** Aged about 46 years, S/o. Kondaiah, No. 17, 7th Main Road, 10th Cross, Near D Mart, New Kaval Byrasandra Layout, KHB Main Road, R.T. Nagar, Bengaluru - 560 032, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **ANUMANTH R C K (ANUMANTH RODDA CHINNA KONDAIAH)** to **ANUMANTH RAO K (ANUMANTH RAO KONDAIAH)** vide affidavit dated 19.04.2025 sworn to before B.M. Chandrashekar, Advocate & Notary Public, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **Mohammed Aamir,** S/o. Mohammed Mumtaz, aged about 39 years, residing at Tippu Nagar, Ward No. 23, Near Faathima Masjid, Ramanagara-562159, Ramanagara District, Karnataka State, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **Mohammed Amir** to **Mohammed Aamir,** vide affidavit dated 19.04.2025., sworn to before T.V. Indira, Advocate & Notary Public, Govt. of India, Ramanagara District.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, Mr.VINOD KUMAR, son of Mr. Ramachander, aged about 44 years, residing at #94, Flat No.001, Sri Sai Kuteera Building, 2nd Block, BTM Layout 4th Stage, Vijaya Bank Layout, Bangalore-560076, have changed my son's name from **HARSHIT .V to HARSHIT V SUTHAR** vide affidavit dated: 18/04/2025, sworn before Notary Public, Mohammed Hussian K., Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **TIPPAYYA** S/o Late Hampayya, Residing at No.173, 15th B Cross, 19th Main, Vaganahalli, Sector-1, H S R Layout, Bengaluru-560102. Hereby declare that as per my Aadhar Card, Pan Card and Other documents my name is **TIPPAYYA** and in my Son **Charan's** High School records my name is wrongly mentioned as **THIPPIAH**. Both the name belongs to me only. Henceforth my name will be **TIPPAYYA** in all my records and documents vide affidavit dated 17.04.2025 sworn to before Notary **Harish G**, Bengaluru.

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'I'M NOT CHASING ANY IMAGE—JUST EXPERIENCES'

...says Rachana Inder as she talks about her upcoming film *Firefly*, directed by Vamshi Krishna—a film that she says taps into Gen Z flair with a fresh narrative attempt

A SHARADHAA

THERE'S a quiet confidence about Rachana Inder, one that doesn't demand attention but holds it with ease. She doesn't push herself into the spotlight; instead, she lets her performances speak for themselves. From her debut in *Love Mocktail* to her upcoming film, *Firefly*, Rachana has embraced an acting journey that's instinctive, evolving, and rooted in passion. "I think it's because I never had any expectations," she begins, reflecting on *Firefly*. "I didn't go in thinking I'm the heroine or the lead. I play Neha—she enters Vicky's life, and that moment changes the story. She completes it. It's not about the hero or heroine. It's about being a piece of the puzzle in his life," adds Rachana, as she gears up for the film's release on April 24, coinciding with Dr Rajkumar's birth anniversary.

Firefly marks the maiden feature film production of Niveditha Shivarajkumar, under the Sri Muthu Creations banner. Directed by Vamshi Krishna—who also plays the lead—the film promises something different, with Abhilash Kalahathi handling cinematography and Charan Raj composing the music.

What sets *Firefly* apart, says Rachana, isn't just the story but the atmosphere it creates. "*Firefly* by Vamshi Krishna is not your regular film. The director and actor has attempted something new—something I haven't seen in this industry before," she says, as she continues to explain. "As a character, he believes emotions aren't just expressed by people. The camera shows them. The colour of the house, the equipment lying around—everything reflects emotion. In Vicky's world, life isn't perfect. That's why he meets another imperfect person. That connection—that shared imperfection—is what makes the story special."

She admits, "I had a brief about my character, but not the entire flow. That's the kind of trust Vamshi has in his actors—and I love that. I'm also really curious to watch it in theatres."

Rachana doesn't shy away from experimenting with genres. From dreamy love stories to sci-fi thrillers, she's drawn to stories that speak to her.

"I wanted to act since school. And God's been kind—people are accepting me, and I'm grateful. But I've also made conscious choices. I want to do films I love—seven more, ten more—bring them on! *Love Mocktail* gave me that warmth. After that, there was *Harikathe Alla Girikathe*, the opportunity to work with Rishab Shetty, and *Love 360*, directed by Shashank, which was a love thriller. I even did a fun ride like *Triple Riding* with Ganesh. I was craving that fictional commercial high—*Firefly* gave me that vibe. Coming up next is *Naalkane Aayama – Fourth Dimension*, a thriller. Basically, each genre gives you something new to play with. I want to feel all kinds of roles. I'm not chasing any image—just experiences," she says.

Director Vamshi Krishna calls *Firefly* a Gen Z film. So how does Rachana describe that? She thinks aloud, "Gen Z—those born around the 2000s—live and think differently. They spend their time differently too. We grew up needing fresh air. Playing outside was mandatory. But now, the lifestyle has shifted. The way emotions are expressed, the way problems are handled—it's all changed."

And where does Rachana fit in? "I am a Gen Z girl, but I think I lean more toward being a millennial. I'm the youngest in my family, but I was brought up by millennials. So I carry that blend."

She's also impressed by how *Firefly* handles mental health. "People used to hide things like depression or anxiety. But now, it's being acknowledged. Take Vicky, for instance—he isn't ready to speak about it. But society needs to understand, listen, and give space. That's what Gen Z needs too—more understanding, less judgement."

Rachana also has *Naanu Matthu Gunda 2*, with Rakesh Adiga, ready for release, and *Spark* alongside Niranjan Sudhindra, which is currently under production.

With every project, Rachana Inder likes to grow—unafraid to take risks, eager to evolve, and always curious. "This journey is about becoming," she says. "I want to keep choosing what I love—and I hope the audience continues to love that I'm just being myself."

A SHARADHAA

A tender tale that slips into safe corners

KADEEMA
Director: Sai Pradeep
Cast: Chandan N, Anoosha Krishna, Yash Shetty, Shobhrajm, Mukhyamantri Chandru, and Girija Lokesh

RATING 2.5/5

MENTION City Market, and your mind might jump to petty crimes, raw chaos, and small-time rowdyism—a backdrop often overused in Kannada cinema to reflect grunge. *Kadeema* attempts to flip that idea and plant a tender love story in that same rugged soil. And that's where the film tries to win—by showing us that even the most hardened places can hold a soft corner. Director Sai Pradeep builds this world with heart, but somewhere along the way, the storytelling wavers, and the narrative loses its bite.

The story follows Market Surya (Chandan N), a street-smart thief often seen navigating shady deals and street brawls. But when he falls in love with Prakruthi (Anoosha Krishna), things take a turn. Raised by elderly guardians who guide him toward change, Surya begins to reform. Just as the story promises emotional depth, the writing leans on safe, predictable turns—the girl exits, a local goon enters, and the underdog finds his moment of redemption. There are layers, but they don't always land. The emotional moments are often rushed or overwritten. The film does deserve credit for keeping things clean—no double meaning, no cringe—but that alone doesn't make up for the uneven execution.

Chandan, in his first lead role, approaches his part with earnestness and puts in the effort, especially in the action blocks, but the emotional scenes demand more depth. Anoosha Krishna, with her theatre background, keeps things grounded. Her charm lies in restraint, even though her arc deserved stronger writing. Veterans like Mukhyamantri Chandru and Girija Lokesh bring their usual grace but are given little to chew on. The supporting cast—Shobaraj, V Manohar, Dayanand, and Yash Shetty—do what's expected, but none of the characters break out from stereotypes. Even Yash Shetty's late entry feels more like a cameo than a turning point.

Shashank Sheshagiri's music adds colour, with the lyrics giving some emotional grounding. His short cameo is a nice touch, but the songs often feel better than the situations they're placed in. Cinematographer Nagarjun RD captures the market scenes with texture and life. The mood and setting feel real. Vikram Mor's action choreography is tailored for front-row audiences—loud and designed for whistles, though repetition dampens the thrill quotient. Umesh RB's editing keeps the pace intact, but the film could have used a tighter grip on the second half.

Kadeema starts with promise and has an emotionally charged premise, an honest attempt at storytelling, and a clean tone that is rare in mass cinema. However, the film falls into familiar zones, never quite rising above its potential. It touches on redemption and transformation but doesn't dig deep enough to make it memorable.

Sai Pradeep shows flair for building a world, but the writing needs more sharpness and restraint in future efforts.

Bank of Bhagyalakshmi eyes July release

CE FEATURES

FROM HK Prakash, the producer behind films like *RangiTaranga* and *Avane Srimannarayana*, comes a new venture titled *Bank of Bhagyalakshmi*, starring Dheekshith Shetty of *Dia* and *Blink* fame. The film marks the directorial debut of Abhishek M, who launched the film's first song, "Hara Om", under MRT Music (Lahari).

A devotional tribute to Lord Shiva, "Hara Om", has been composed by Judah Sandy with lyrics by Nagarjuna Sharma. Shot with grandeur and spiritual energy, it was choreographed by Usha Bhandari and Darshan, with Usha also appearing in the song. Lead actor Brinda Acharya, known for *Prema Poojyam* and *Kousalya Supraja Rama*, shared, "My day begins with Shiva's name. After hearing this song, I found myself humming it nonstop."

Director Abhishek said, "This is my first film as director, though I've worked earlier with Simple Suni. I co-run a VFX studio with Rakshit Shetty and Sachin. The song 'Hara Om' appears just before the climax and holds emotional weight. We've completed the shoot, and this is our first step toward release."

The film will hit theatres in July—the same month *RangiTaranga* released a decade ago. "It feels full circle," said producer HK Prakash. "That was my debut as producer, and this is my sixth film."

Dheekshith Shetty added, "A year after *Blink*, I'm back. What makes this song special is that it features my guru and my students. Looking forward to seeing Bank of Bhagyalakshmi in theatres soon.

Team Bank of Bhagyalakshmi

Ram's fan moment with Hrithik Roshan over *Six T Nine*

CE FEATURES

FOR Ram, a Kannadiga, settled in the US and juggling between India and the US, cinema was never just entertainment—it was an obsession born while watching Hrithik Roshan light up the screen. A techie by profession and a storyteller at heart, Ram took a bold leap in 2022 with his debut, *Nahi Jnanena Sadrusham*. Now, he returns with his second film *69 (SIX T NINE)*—billed as a quirky, experimental drama—presented by Friends Funded Films and Vyas Studio.

The film's tagline reads 'Once Upon a Time'. In it, he wears multiple hats—writer, director, producer, and lead actor.

What makes this journey even more surreal is a real-life twist: Hrithik Roshan, who was shooting in Chicago, met Ram in person. After hearing his story and watching a few clips, Hrithik reportedly said, "It's really good. For someone from a tech background, this is impressive. I'd love to watch the full film."

Ram, Hrithik Roshan and Shruthi Bekal

The film follows a married couple trapped in a time loop—living the same day repeatedly with both hilarity and heartbreak. Can they break the cycle?

Kannadiga Shruthi Bekal—also known as Mrs USA—stars opposite Ram. Shot across the Ryansome Canyon and Texas, the film boasts music by Saleem Raj and cinematography by Harsha Mahadeshwar.

With growing international buzz, Ram plans an overseas premiere before bringing the film home to Karnataka.

Naanu Matthu Gunda -2 eyes release in multiple langauges

Team Naanu Mattu Gunda -2

CE FEATURES

THE tale of *Naanu Matthu Gunda*, a heartwarming story about the deep bond between a man and his dog, is all set to continue. The sequel, *Naanu Matthu Gunda – 2*, is gearing up for release, carrying forward the emotional legacy that touched audiences two and a half years ago. This time, the spotlight isn't just on humans. Simba, the son of Simbu (the original dog star who passed away after filming just four days), now plays a pivotal role, taking forward his father's legacy. He's joined by another four-legged co-star, Bunty, adding even more charm to this soulful tale.

Directed and produced by Raghu Hassan, the sequel sees Rakesh Adiga in the lead, playing the son of Shivraj KR Pete's character in the original. Rachana Inder joins as the female lead. "We had the sequel story ready during the first part itself," revealed Raghu. "It blends emotion, divine themes, and a social message."

Shot in picturesque locales like Ooty, Thirthahalli, and Shivamogga, the film is eyeing a May release in five languages, including Kannada, Telugu, and Hindi. The teaser was unveiled by Shailaja Kiragandur, who wished the team greater success than the original.

With six songs composed by RP Patnaik, the film has lyrics by Rohith Raman and V Nagendra Prasad, as well as a background score by Rithvik Muralidhar.